コンダクター
The Conductor
原作
神永学
Manabu Kaminaga
作画
野奇夜
Nokiya
3
ASUKA COMICS DX

The Conductor
Illustrated by Nishiya

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コンダクター

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コンダクター The Conducter

人物紹介& ストーリー
Character Introduction and Story

He returned home from his study in Germany and became the substitute conductor for the orchestra

A pianist. He gave up being a professional after receiving an injury five years ago

A violinist. She's Yuuki's ex-girlfriend but is currently engaged to Tamaki

KEYWORD

THE PHOTO FROM FIVE YEARS AGO

A photo that Naomi took with her university friends on Christmas Eve five years ago. But Naomi doesn't remember that photo and the face of the man standing next to her was scribbled out with a black pen. That photo seems to be the same as the one the headless mummy was holding

The Story So Far

-The counsellor Matsuzaki tells Naomi that there's a possibility she has "selective amnesia". To retrieve her memory of the photo from five years ago, Naomi asked Akiho about the man in the picture and found out that the name of the man who disappeared was "Takumi". She decides to go back to her university with Matsuzaki to find "Takumi"

While investigating the headless mummy, Ishikura visited the real estate agency which was managing the apartment that was the scene of the crime. He finds out that there was a mysterious person looking for something at the "south facing window" of an "apartment" near the crime scene. The name of that person was "Akiho Maya"

-When Tamaki began to grow suspicious of Yuuki and Akiho's relationship, he was approached by a reporter called Nojima. Nojima tells Tamaki that the woman Yuuki dated while he studied abroad had died and that Yuuki was deeply involved with that incident. Following Nojima's instructions, Tamaki decides to observe Yuuki

KEYWORD

NAOMI'S NIGHTMARES

A man holding a skull appears in a dark concert hall. Matsuzaki's counselling reveals the possibility that the man is someone Naomi knows

A flautist. A traumatic experience is causing her to have nightmares

Psychological counsellor

I'm inside you and you're inside me.
THE MORNING NAOMI GOES TO LOOK FOR TAKUMI. THERE'S A STRANGE MESSAGE ON HER BATHROOM MIRROR...

KEYWORD

THE INCIDENT OF A HEADLESS SKELETON AT AN APARTMENT IN KUNITACHI

A headless mummy was discovered at the block of apartments next to where Naomi lives. The mummy was holding a photo in its hand and there was an "apple" mark on the window frame. Rumours on the internet say that apple mark is left behind by an assassin

He's jealous of his junior co-worker

KEYWORD

CONTRACT

Yuuki and the producer, Aiba, signed a sponsor's contract which gives Yuuki 40% of the musical's profits. Yuuki makes a 30 000 000 yen down payment.

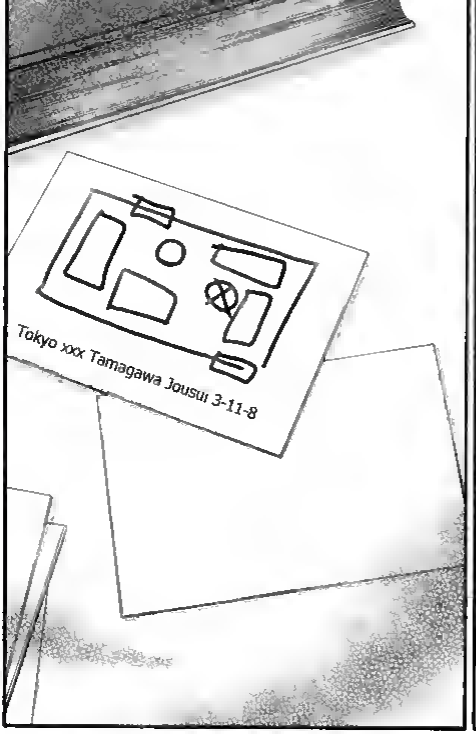
第四日目①

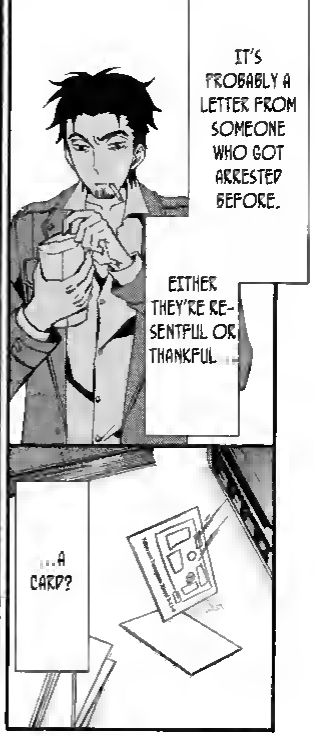
コンダクター
The Conductor
原作 神永学
MANABU KAMINAGA
作画 野奇夜
NOKIYA
38P
of non-stop
suspense.
DAY 4, PART 1
Hurry,
take me away
from this dream.
Somebody, wake me up!
AC-DX
コンダクター 第②巻
11月26日(金)発売予定!
/Conductor Volume 2 goes on sale November 26!
Celebrating 4 consecutive months of comic releases by Kaminaga Manabu!
"Come 4" campaign is now underway!
See the back panel for more information

QUESTIONING PEOPLE IS SO TIRING.
DAY 4 – TSUYOSHI ISHIKURA

I BET THE PERPETRATOR WAS WATCHING THAT SCENE.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE PERPETRATOR WAS NEAR THE APARTMENT.

I GUESS THERE'S STILL A LONG WAY TO GO...
RUSTLE
WHAT'S THIS?
Tatsuki Takaya-san
IF HE USED A TELESCOPE,
THEN THE NUMBER OF POSSIBLE LOCATIONS WOULD INCREASE BY AROUND A HUNDRED TIMES.
THERE'S NO STAMP OR POSTMARK.
SO IT WAS GIVEN DIRECTLY TO AN INVESTIGATOR OR SOMEONE AT THE FRONT DESK?


Tokyo xxx Tamagawa Jousui 3-11-8


IT'S PROBABLY A LETTER FROM SOMEONE WHO GOT ARRESTED BEFORE.
EITHER THEY'RE RESENTFUL OR THANKFUL...
...A CARD?

GRAB

A MAP?
IT'S JUST LIKE A TREASURE MAP...
WHAT IS THIS?

COULD THIS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE INCIDENT INVOLVING THE HEADLESS SKELETON?!
THIS IS THE ADDRESS OF
THE MUSIC SCHOOL...?
THAT CAN'T BE..
ANYWAY, THERE'S AN ADDRESS ON THE OTHER CARD TOO..
NOTHING.
RUSTLE
PEEK
WHAT'S THE MATTER, INSPECTOR ISHIKURA?

YES.
IT WAS A LETTER OF THANKS FROM A THIEF I ARRESTED A LONG TIME AGO.
...WAS THAT A LETTER?
Hmm—
I SEE!
WHAT A STUPID MAN.

SO HOW ARE THINGS GOING ON YOUR END?
HE'S JUST LIKE A LAMB THAT DOESN'T REALISE IT'S AMONG THE WOLVES.
HE'S SO HONEST THAT HE'S ACTUALLY AN IDIOT.
HE'S PROBABLY NEVER BEEN BETRAYED BEFORE.
AH~ I HAVEN'T COME UP WITH ANY-THING.
THERE'S A WOMAN I'M CURIOUS ABOUT THOUGH.
A WOMAN YOU'RE CURIOUS ABOUT?
YES.
THAT WOMAN IS A MEMBER OF AN ORCHESTRA.. SHE LOOKS LIKE
THE WOMAN IN THAT PHOTO.

WILL YOU TAKE A LOOK? IT'S THIS WOMAN.
THAT COPY IS ALL WORN OUT, SO IT'S DIFFICULT TO TELL.
THE RESULTS OF THE IMAGE ANALYSIS SHOULD COME BACK SOON.
YES.
I'M GOING TO LOOK AT THAT AND CHECK HER OUT AGAIN.
RIGHT NOW, IT'S MORE IMPORTANT
THAT I INVESTIGATE THIS MEMO.

DAY 4 - NAOMI KUCHIKI
GOOD MORNING.
I JUST GOT HERE TOO.
DOCTOR MATSU-ZAKI!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING

SHALL WE GO THEN?
DID I WALK TO THE UNIVERSITY LIKE THIS
WITH THE MAN IN THE PHOTO?

AH!
STEP
STEP
STEP
DOCTOR!
WAIT...
I'M A GRADUATE, SO I'LL BE FINE, BUT DOCTOR MATSUZAKI...
Because it's a music school.
COME TO THINK OF IT, THE SECURITY AT THIS UNIVERSITY IS TIGHT.
AH.
I'M MATSUZAKI, THE PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLOR WHO CALLED UP YESTERDAY.
AH...
TAKE THIS ENTRY PERMIT WHEN YOU GO INSIDE.

I INFORMED THE SCHOOL YESTERDAY.
THAT SAVED US SOME TIME, YOU SEE.
Okay, this one is yours, Ayanokouji-san.
....THAT DOESN'T SURPRISE ME...
WE'RE ALSO ABLE TO LOOK AT THE DOCUMENTS IN THE LIBRARY BASEMENT
ON THE CONDITION THAT WE DON'T TAKE THEM OUT.

THERE ARE MORE THAN I THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE.
!!!
Now I've finally finished one box.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BECOME A PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLOR?
Uhh
ANSWERING A QUESTION WITH A QUESTION ISN'T FAIR.
WHY DID YOU START PLAYING MUSIC, NAOMI-SAN?
I WAS THE ONE WHO THOUGHT ABOUT ASKING FIRST.
.....

ALRIGHT.
THEN WILL YOU ANSWER MY QUESTION IF I ANSWER YOURS?
HE LIVED NEARBY.
...MY FIRST LOVE
WAS A MUSICIAN.
"I think the flute would suit you, Naomi-chan."
I TREASURED THE FEELING OF "LOVE" BACK THEN.

BUT YOU STILL KEPT PLAYING MUSIC.
This is kind of embarrassing
Ah.
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
HE GOT MARRIED AND MOVED AWAY BEFORE I STARTED MIDDLE SCHOOL.

I STUDIED PSYCHOLOGY AT UNIVERSITY,
AND I WANTED TO WORK FOR THE SAKE OF THOSE WHO SUFFER.
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!
YOU'RE LYING, AREN'T YOU?
.....

YES.
Jeez.
DOCTOR!
I'M IMPRESSED YOU KNEW.
I just had a feeling!
WOULD YOU GET ANGRY IF I SAID IT WAS CURIOSITY?
CURIOSITY?
YES.
CURIOSITY ABOUT PEOPLE.

HUMAN MINDS
ARE MORE COMPLEX AND DELICATE THAN THOSE OF ANY OTHER LIVING THING.
THEY HAVE SO MUCH DEPTH.
NOT KNOWING THAT ESSENCE
WAS WHAT MADE ME WANT TO UNDER-STAND IT,
BECAUSE IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO PREDICT THE OUTCOME WITH FIRM LAWS, LIKE IN SCIENCE.
YOU CAN'T PREDICT IT?
NO ONE CAN.
NOT AT ALL?

IT'S COMPLETELY IMPOSSIBLE.
ONE'S SURROUND-INGS.
A TRIVIAL WORD.
EVEN JUST THINKING THE MOON IS BEAUTIFUL IS ENOUGH FOR SOMEONE TO CHANGE THEIR MIND
THE MIND REALLY IS UNSTABLE
BUT
ISN'T IT A PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLOR'S JOB TO CONTROL PEOPLE'S MINDS?

THEN DOESN'T THAT MAKE PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING MEANINGLESS?
OF COURSE NOT.
NOT EVEN GOD CAN CONTROL PEOPLE'S MINDS.
IT'S NOT MEANING-LESS.
PEOPLE WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM SOMETHING
HAVE FALLEN INTO A STATE WHERE THEIR INNER BALANCE IS DESTROYED AND THEY CAN'T ANALYSE THEIR MINDS THEM-SELVES.

SO THEY'VE LOST SIGHT OF THEMSELVES?
A COUNSELLOR LISTENS
TO WHAT THE PATIENT SAYS.
TO PUT IT SIMPLY,
SHOWS WHAT THEIR PROBLEM IS
AND FINDS A WAY TO SOLVE IT WITH THEM.
I SEE.
I'VE BECOME ABLE TO UNDERSTAND
MY SITUATION SOMEWHAT SINCE RECEIVING COUNSELLING.
THAT ALONE HAS REDUCED THE BURDEN IN MY HEART.
NAOMI-SAN.

WERE MURDERED.
MY PARENTS

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO,
WHEN I HAD JUST STARTED MIDDLE SCHOOL,
MURDERED...?
I CAME HOME LATE BECAUSE OF A VIOLIN LESSON.
THE LIGHTS WERE OFF WHEN I GOT HOME.
THINKING THAT WAS STRANGE, I PUT MY HAND ON THE DOORKNOB.
creak
AND THE DOOR WAS UNLOCKED.
"I'm home."

INSTEAD THERE WAS A SMELL OF BLOOD ALL OVER THE HOUSE.
THERE WAS NO REPLY.
click
WHEN I TURNED ON THE LIGHT,
I SAW DARK RED SPOTS ALL AROUND THE CORRIDOR.
I FOLLOWED THOSE SPOTS TO THE BATHROOM.

THAT WAS THE ONLY ROOM WHERE THE LIGHTS WERE ON,
AND WHEN I OPENED THE DOOR...
creAK

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE KILLER SAID TO ME?
"HELP ME."
THAT WAS WHAT HE SAID.

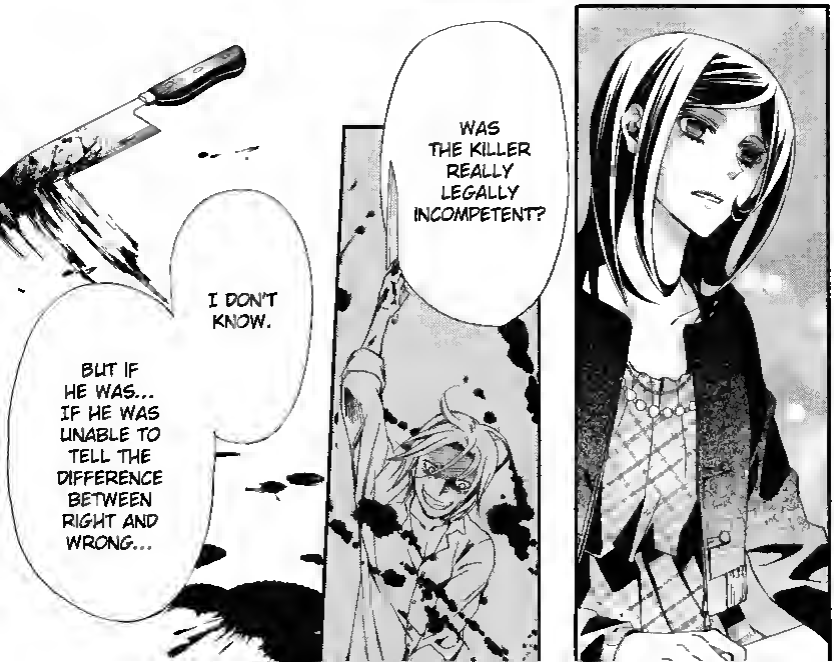
I SCREAMED AS LOUD AS I COULD.
I JUST KEPT ON SCREAMING.
I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL WHEN I CAME TO.
AH...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
AHH!
AAAA

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE KILLER?
HE WAS ARRESTED RIGHT AWAY.
I SEE...
WHY DID HE KILL YOUR PARENTS?
THE YOUNG MAN HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN AN INCIDENT IN WHICH HE HAD INJURED THE VICTIM. MY FATHER WAS HIS LAWYER.
THEN WASN'T HE INDEBTED TO YOUR FATHER?!
SO WHY...

THAT YOUNG MAN SAID DEMONS ORDERED HIM TO "KILL".
IN THE END, HE WAS JUDGED TO BE LEGALLY INCOMPETENT AND NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS ACTIONS.
HE DIDN'T RECEIVE A JAIL SENTENCE.
LEGALLY INCOMPETENT...
THAT CAN'T BE...

I DIDN'T AGREE WITH THAT.
BUT AT THAT TIME, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT BEING LEGALLY INCOMPETENT WAS.
SO THAT'S WHY YOU BECAME A COUNSELLOR?

YES.
I STUDIED REALLY HARD.
WHAT LEGAL INCOMPETENCE MEANT...


WAS THE KILLER REALLY LEGALLY INCOMPETENT?
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT IF HE WAS... IF HE WAS UNABLE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG...

COULD HIS CRIME
STILL BE FORGIVEN FOR THAT REASON?

WHO ON EARTH FORGIVES THE CRIMES THAT ARE COMMITTED?

THE LAW? THE VICTIM'S FAMILY?

PERHAPS SOME MIGHT SAY IT'S GOD.

NO.
I WAS THE ONE WHO ASKED A STRANGE QUESTION...

WHILE DOCTOR MATSUZAKI
HOLDS A DEEP DARKNESS IN HIS HEART...

BUT...
I'VE TOLD YOU SOMETHING STRANGE, HAVEN'T I?

HE DOESN'T LOOK AWAY FROM IT, BUT TRIES TO FACE AND UNDERSTAND IT.
AH...
ALTHOUGH HE APPEARS EMOTIONLESS,
HE BEARS A CHOKING SENSE OF PAIN IN HIS HEART.

I'M SURE HE CAN

RESTORE MY MEMORIES...

◈ Naomi learns about Matsuzaki's unthinkable past...

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE FEBRUARY ISSUE, ON SALE DECEMBER 24

To Be Continued..

The Conductor

by Kaminaga Manabu & Noki Ya

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TEXT

Yukihito (translation) | avan (typeast)

IMAGE

Kuroneko003 (apecial thanks) | Chys (claan) | billa_spirit (clean & redraw)

QUALITY

caalum-infinitum, Keeahtihn (proofraad) | aven, Kaito (image enhancement) | Kaito & Yukihito (overall raview)

コンダクター The Conducter

人物紹介& ストーリー
Character Introduction and Story

He returned home from studying abroad in Germany and became the replacement conductor for the musical

A pianist. He gave up on being a professional after sustaining an injury five years ago

A violinist. She's Yuuki's old girlfriend but is currently engaged to Tamaki

KEYWORD
THE PHOTO FROM FIVE YEARS AGO

A photo that Naomi took with her university friends on Christmas Eve five years ago. But Naomi doesn't remember that photo, and the face of the man standing next to her was scribbled out with a black pen. That photo seems to be the same as the one the headless mummy was holding

The Story So Far

前回までのあらすじ

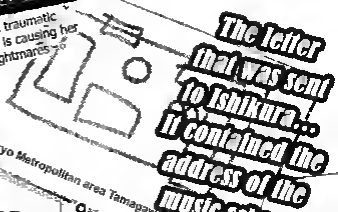
- The counsellor Matsuzaki has told Naomi that there is a possibility that she has "selective amnesia" In order to recover her memory of the photo from five years ago, Naomi decides to go back to her university with Matsuzaki to find "Takumi"
- While investigating the headless mummy, Ishikura visited the real estate agency which was managing the apartment that was the scene of the crime. He finds out that there was a mysterious person looking for something at the "south facing window" from an "apartment" near the crime scene. The name of that person is "Akiho Maya"
- When Tamaki began to become suspicious of Yuuki and Akiho's relationship, he was approached by a reporter called Nojima. Nojima told Tamaki that the woman Yuuki dated while he studied abroad died and that Yuuki was deeply involved with that incident. Following Nojima's instructions, Tamaki decides to observe Yuuki.
- Ishikura's subordinate Aragaki finds someone who looks like one of the women in the photo the skeleton was holding. She's a member of an orchestra, but.
- Naomi finds out about Matsuzaki's difficult past – his parents were killed in front of him. Seeing Matsuzaki face the darkness in his heart encourages her

KEYWORD
NAOMI'S NIGHTMARES

A man holding a skull appears in a dark concert hall. The counsellor Matsuzaki thinks there's a possibility that the man is someone Naomi knows.

Psychological counsellor

A flautist? A traumatic experience is causing her to have nightmares


The letter that was sent to Ishikura... It contained the address of the music school and a map. Also...
Tokyo Metropolitan area Tamagawa area

KEYWORD
THE INCIDENT OF A HEADLESS SKELETON AT AN APARTMENT IN KUNITACHI

A headless mummy was discovered at the block of apartments next to where Naomi lives. The mummy was holding a photo in its hand and there was an "apple" mark on the window frame. Rumours on the Internet say that apple mark is left behind by an assassin

He's jealous of his junior, co-worker

KEYWORD
CONTRACT

Yuuki and the producer, Aiba exchanged a sponsor's contract which gives Yuuki 40% of the musical's profits. Yuuki makes a 30,000,000 yen down payment

コンダクター

38 pages of Non-stop Mosaic Suspense

CONDUCTOR VOLUME 2 IS NOW ON SALE!

Day Four Part 2

Commemorating four months of comic releases authored by Kaminaga Manabu!

THE "COMIC 4" CAMPAIGN IS IN PROGRESS!

See the back band for more information.

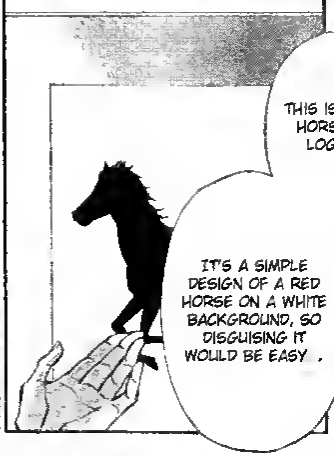
Author: Kaminaga Manabu

Artist: Noki Ya

WE'VE FOUND OUT HOW THE HEADLESS BODY ABANDONED IN THE APARTMENT AT KUNITACHI WAS TRANSPORTED.
DAY FOUR – TSUYOSHI ISHIKURA
BY QUESTIONING PEOPLE WHO LIVE NEARBY,
WE GOT WITNESS STATEMENTS THAT CLAIM A SMALL PICKUP TRUCK FROM THE TRANSPORTATION COMPANY RED HORSE WAS PARKED IN FRONT OF THE APARTMENT BLOCK—

YESTERDAY, TWO MAPS WERE SENT TO ME.
I WANT TO CHECK OUT THE PLACES ON THOSE MAPS RIGHT AWAY.
DAMN IT. I SHOULDN'T BE AT THIS MEETING NOW.
SHUT UP, YOU'RE DISTRACTING ME!
THE DELIVERY ISN'T DONE BY RED HORSE EMPLOYEES, BUT BY FREELANCERS.
THIS COULD BE PRETTY DIFFICULT...
THIS IS JUST MY PERSONAL OPINION, BUT I BELIEVE THAT THE PERPETRATOR DISGUISED THE VEHICLE WHEN TRANSPORTING THE BODY.
WE MADE INQUIRIES WITH RED HORSE TRANSPORTATION AND CONFIRMED THE ORDER WAS MADE.
BUT THERE WAS NO RECORD OF THE RELATED ITEMS.
He got angry at me again.

WHEN MAKING INQUIRIES, PLEASE INVESTIGATE THE LOCAL STATIONERY STORE AND HARDWARE STORE.
FIRMLY APPEALING TO THE LISTENERS BY ADDING IN HIS PERSONAL OPINION AT THE END.
THAT'S JUST WHAT A VETERAN DETECTIVE WOULD DO.


THIS IS RED HORSE'S LOGO.
IT'S A SIMPLE DESIGN OF A RED HORSE ON A WHITE BACKGROUND, SO DISGUISING IT WOULD BE EASY.

ISHIKURA.
HAVE YOU GOT ANYTHING?
NOW LET'S HEAR THE CURRENT RESULTS OF THE INQUIRIES...

...I HAVEN'T MADE ANY RELEVANT PROGRESS YET.

THOSE MAPS AND THE PERSON ARAGAKI SAW, WHO LOOKED LIKE ONE OF THE WOMEN IN THE PHOTO.
IT ISN'T THE TIME FOR ME TO REPORT THOSE THINGS YET.
IF I MENTION UNCERTAIN INFORMATION,
IT'LL ACTUALLY BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR ME TO ACT.
INSPECTOR ISHIKURA!
ABOUT OUR SHARE OF THE WORK.
I'M GOING TO FOLLOW UP ON SOMETHING ELSE.

I'LL BE FINE ALONE!
THEN I'LL COME TOO..
I DON'T KNOW WHY,
BUT I'M POSITIVE THAT THE KILLER IS TARGETING ME.
Huh..
EVEN IF THIS MAP IS AN INVITATION FROM THE KILLER,
NOTHING WILL HAPPEN IF I DON'T MAKE A MOVE.
THIS IS MY JOB...

GOOD MORNING.
DAY FOUR – AKIHO MAYA
TODAY WE'LL START PRACTICING AT THE MUSICAL'S VENUE.
OF COURSE IT'S GOING TO BE A LOT BIGGER.
HEY, HAVE YOU GOT A MOMENT?

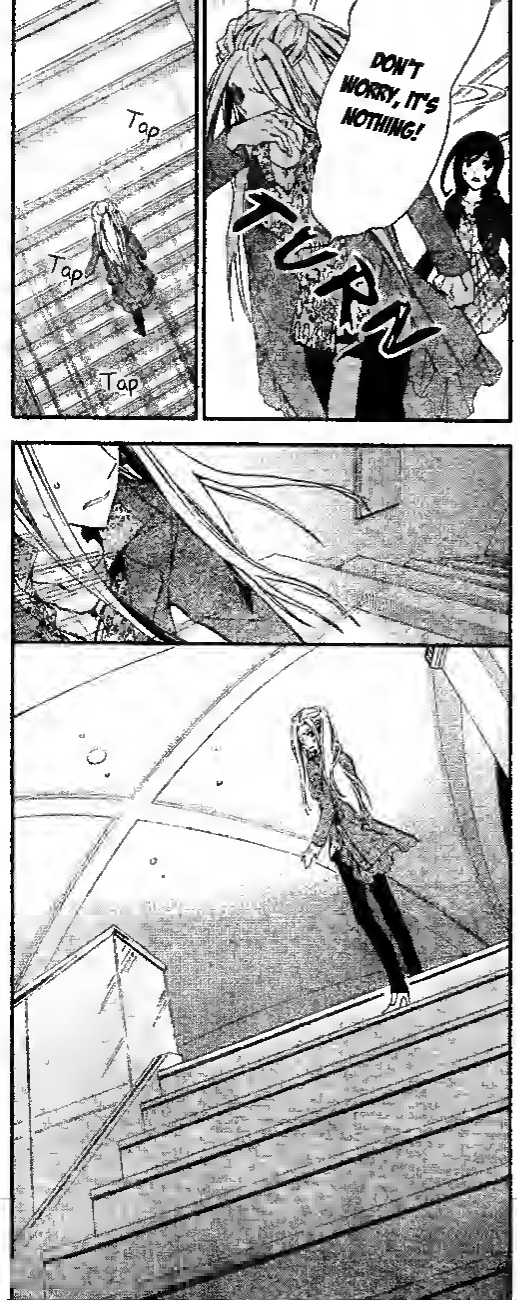
THE WAY HE'S ACTING... HE'S STILL CONCERNED ABOUT YUUKI.
THEN HE SHOULD JUST SAY SO...!
HEY, WHY DIDN'T YOU ANSWER YOUR PHONE?
WHAT IS IT?

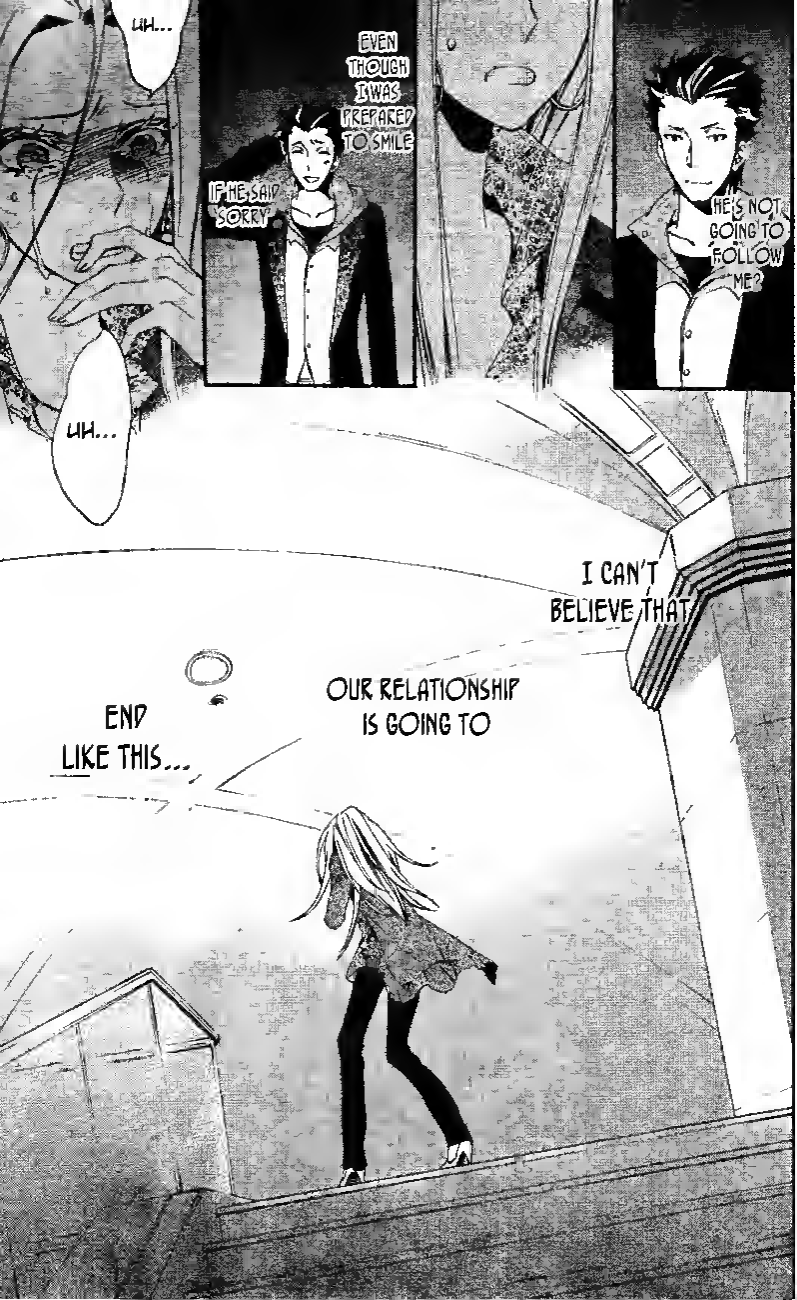
DID YOU CALL ME?
I DIDN'T NOTICE.
MY PHONE?
THAT'S RIGHT
YOU DIDN'T EVEN CALL ME BACK.

I DID! CHECK YOUR PHONE!
AH, I'M SORRY.
I PROBABLY JUST DIDN'T NOTICE.
WHAT? HE DOESN'T SEEM TO FEEL SORRY AT ALL.
EVEN THOUGH I THOUGHT I'D TRY TO COMPROMISE WITH HIM!
THERE'S NO WAY YOU WOULDN'T NOTICE.
IT'S NO GOOD SAYING THAT...
I'M ASKING YOU WHY YOU IGNORED ME! THIS HASN'T HAPPENED BEFORE.
WHY...? I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T NOTICE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
YOU'RE SO ANNOYING. WAS IT REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?

IT'S NOT MY FAULT HE CAME BACK!
AKIHO?!

ARE YOU OKAY?
NAOMI?!
WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE HER OF ALL PEOPLE?
IT'S NOTHING.
DID TAMAKI-KUN DO SOMETHING?
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
NOW ISN'T THE TIME FOR YOU TO BE HELPING OTHER PEOPLE!


Tap
Tap
Tap
DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOTHING!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S WORSE OFF.


UH...
EVEN THOUGH I WAS PREPARED TO SMILE
IF HE SAID SORRY
HE'S NOT GOING TO FOLLOW ME?
UH...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT
OUR RELATIONSHIP IS GOING TO
END LIKE THIS...

DAY FOUR – NAOMI KUCHIKI
EVEN THOUGH WE LOOKED RIGHT UP UNTIL JUST BEFORE THE PRACTICE, WE DIDN'T FIND ANYONE CALLED "TAKUMI".
I'M SORRY EVEN THOUGH YOU WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF HELPING ME.
IT'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO APOLOGISE ABOUT, NAOMI-SAN.
THERE ARE STILL SOME REGISTERS LEFT,
SO LET'S TRY AGAIN TOMORROW.

WILL YOU COME AGAIN, DOCTOR?
YES.
LET'S TRY OUR BEST TOGETHER.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
AND WHEN I HURRIED TO THE THEATRE...
I made it!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT HE CAME BACK!

I UNDERSTOOD MOST OF THE SITUATION FROM WHAT SHE SHOUTED
HEY,
AREN'T YOU GOING TO GO AFTER HER?
IT'S OKAY.
IS THAT SO?
AKIHO WAS CRYING
IT'S NOT OKAY
SOMETHING STRANGE IS HAPPENING BETWEEN YOU TWO
NOT REALLY.
IT IS STRANGE!
AT THIS RATE, YOU'LL END UP BREAKING OFF THE ENGAGEMENT.

IT'S OKAY.
I'M SURE AKIHO WILL COME BACK TO ME.
YUUKI-KUN WILL TAKE HER AWAY FROM YOU.

YOU THINK SO TOO?

Grab
YOU THINK SO TOO?
ANSWER ME.

SHIVER
NO!
SHIVER
NO!
SHIVER
DON'T TOUCH ME!
WHACK
SHIVER

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AFRAID OF MEN TOUCHING ME.
WHY?
BUT THIS TIME I WAS MORE AFRAID THAN I WAS BEFORE.

TODAY WE'RE GOING TO START PRACTICING WITH THE ACTORS IN PREPARATION FOR THE SHOW.
BECAUSE WE CAN'T SEE THE PERFORMANCE FROM THE ORCHESTRA PIT,
WE HAVE TO CHECK THE MONITORS ON THE MUSIC STANDS.
THE STAGE IS SHOWN THERE.
IT SHOULD BE OKAY...
AKIHO!
CREAK
Good morning.

ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE.
HER EYES ARE ALL PUFFY...
UMM...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
SLAP
I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE ME ALONE, DIDN'T I?!

I CAN'T TELL YUUKI-KUN...
EVEN IF HE'S JUST CONCERNED BECAUSE HE'S THE CONDUCTOR...
IT'S NOTHING.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HER?
AH...
IT'S
NOTHING.
AND...
.....

TODAY,
THE PRACTICE WITH THE ACTORS HAS BEEN CANCELLED.
What?
Huh?
Why?
IT WAS THE DIRECTOR'S REQUEST.
THERE ARE SOME SECTIONS HE WANTS TO ADJUST.
WE WON'T BE PRACTICING WITH THE ACTORS, BUT WE'LL STILL PRACTICE LIKE WE USUALLY DO
ALRIGHT, I'M GOING TO START THE TUNING UP.

TAMAKI.
AFTER THE OBOE, IT'S THE PIANO'S TURN.
TOOT
AH...
HAH...
RIGHT,
FROM THE BEGINNING.

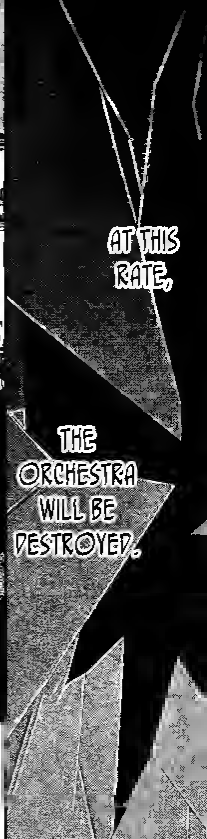
A SOUND UNLIKE THE PREVIOUS ONES DESCENDS FROM THE CEILING
THROUGH THE SPEAKERS
HUH...
JUST NOW...
PIANO!
...I'M SORRY.

DON'T JUST PLAY THE WAY YOU WANT TO.
ONCE MORE FROM THE BEGINNING.
EVEN I CAN UNDERSTAND.
IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN...
PIANO.
THAT'S ENOUGH!
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY PROBLEM THOUGH.
murmur

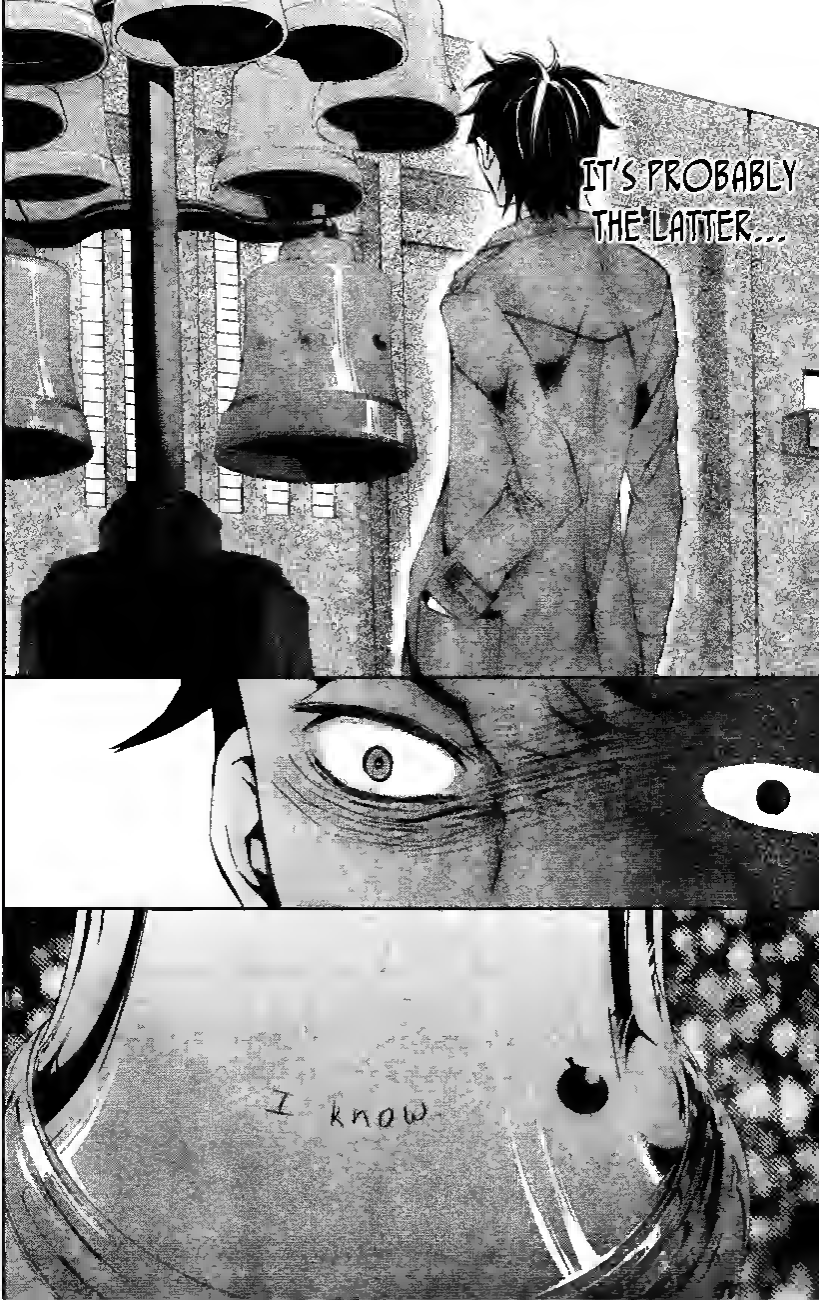
NOT BEING AWARE OF THAT IS A PROFESSIONAL.
YOU'RE TOO FAST. YOU'RE NOT MATCHING THE TEMPO OF THE OTHER PARTS.
I HAVEN'T GOT THE TEMPO OF THE PIECE WRONG.
EVERYONE ELSE IS JUST SLOW.
OF COURSE.
I WAS CONDUCTING SLOWER THAN I USUALLY DO BECAUSE WE'RE PRACTICING.
Whoa!
Whisper
He wasn't looking at the conductor?
What?
Whisper

MAKE SURE TO WATCH MY CONDUCTING FROM NOW ON.
YOU'RE NO LONGER A STUDENT, SO DON'T MAKE ME TELL YOU SUCH BASIC THINGS.
ONCE MORE,
FROM THE BEGINNING.
THEIR DISCORD CONSUMES THE WHOLE ORCHESTRA.

THIS IS THE MUSIC SCHOOL WRITTEN ON THE NOTE...


AT THIS RATE,
THE ORCHESTRA WILL BE DESTROYED.

THIS IS
THE OBJECT IN THAT PHOTO?!
AND THIS MARK INDICATES...
WHY WAS I TOLD ABOUT THIS PLACE?
AM I BEING GIVEN INFORMA-TION...? OR DO THEY HAVE SOME OTHER PLAN?

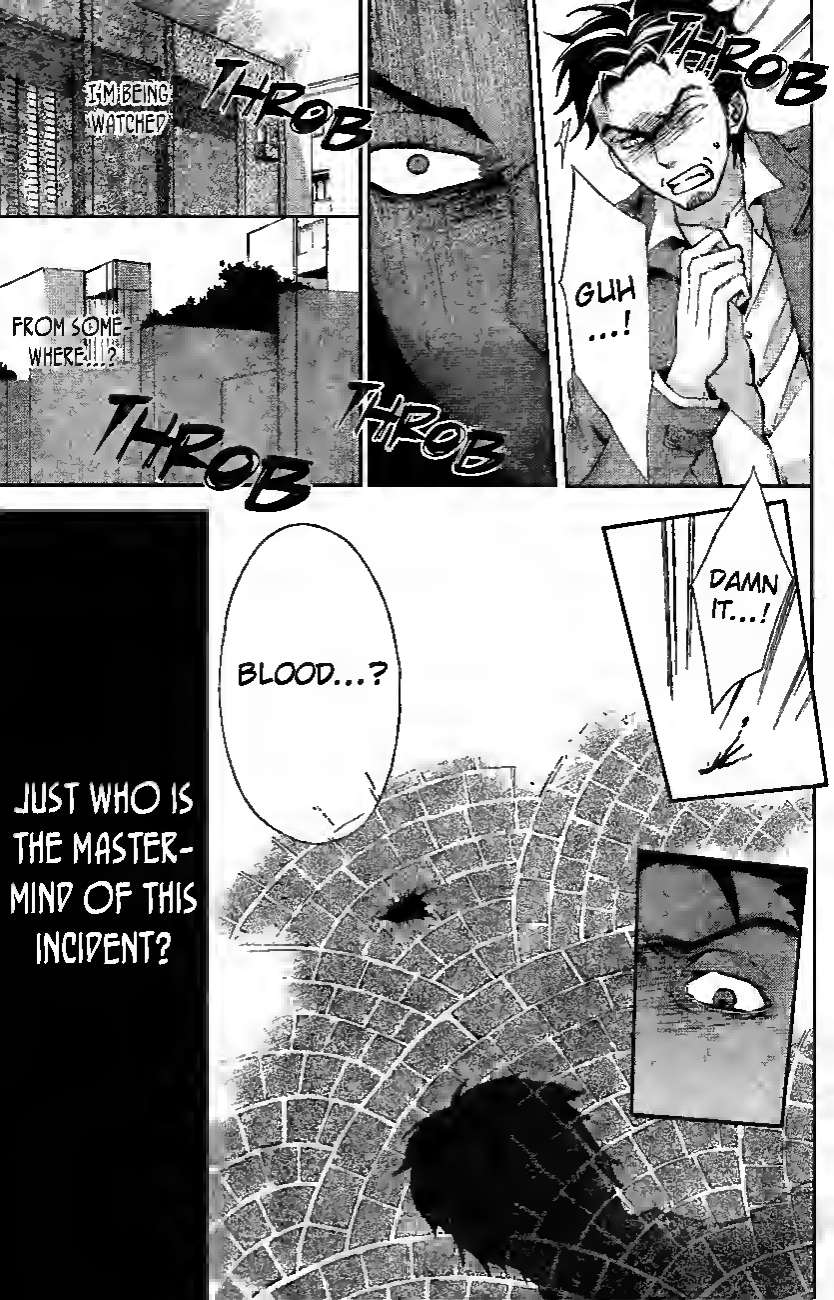

IT'S PROBABLY THE LATTER...
I know

I'M IN FRONT OF THE HALL AT THE MUSIC SCHOOL.
ARAGAKI, HUH...
WHERE ARE YOU NOW?
THIS IS ISHIKURA.
RING RING
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?
A HEAD HAS BEEN FOUND
I'LL TELL YOU WHEN I GET BACK.
ANYWAY, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
AH, RIGHT.

THE MISSING HEAD OF THE SKELETON HAS BEEN FOUND.
IT WAS ONLY JUST DISCOVERED, SO HOW DO YOU KNOW IT BELONGS TO THE MUMMY?
THE AUTOPSY RESULTS HAVEN'T COME IN YET.
THERE WAS A TIP-OFF.
...FROM WHO?
I DON'T KNOW IT JUST SAID THAT A SKULL WAS BURIED AT THE CEMETERY.

AH BUT IT WASN'T UNDER A GRAVESTONE IT WAS IN AN EMPTY PLOT AT THE CEMETERY
SO IT WASN'T ACTUALLY BURIED
THE TIP-OFF INSTRUCTED US TO SEARCH THE EMPTY PLOT 3-4 AT THE CEMETERY
YOU MEAN THE CEMETERY AT TAMAGAWA JOSUI STATION?
...HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?

THIS ISN'T
JUST A COINCIDENCE.
BUT THE HEAD WAS DISCO-VERED AROUND THE SAME TIME THAT I CAME TO THIS PLACE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...
IT WAS ON THE ORDER FORM FROM THE REAL ESTATE AGENCY.
Akiho Maya
Tokyo, Tamagawa
"AKIHO MAYA" IS CONNECTED TO THIS INCIDENT IN SOME WAY.
WELL, I'M HEADING OVER THERE NOW.
NO, WAIT.


I'M BEING WATCHED
THROB
FROM SOME-WHERE!!?
THROB
THROB
THROB
GUH ...!
DAMN IT...!
BLOOD...?
JUST WHO IS THE MASTER-MIND OF THIS INCIDENT?

WHAT DOES HE WANT TO SHOW ME?
WHAT DOES HE WANT TO MAKE ME DO?
Ishikura gradually comes closer to the truth. What awaits him there?!

3月号 1月24日発売 につづく★ To Be Continued...

The Conductor

by Kaminaga Manabu & Noki Ya

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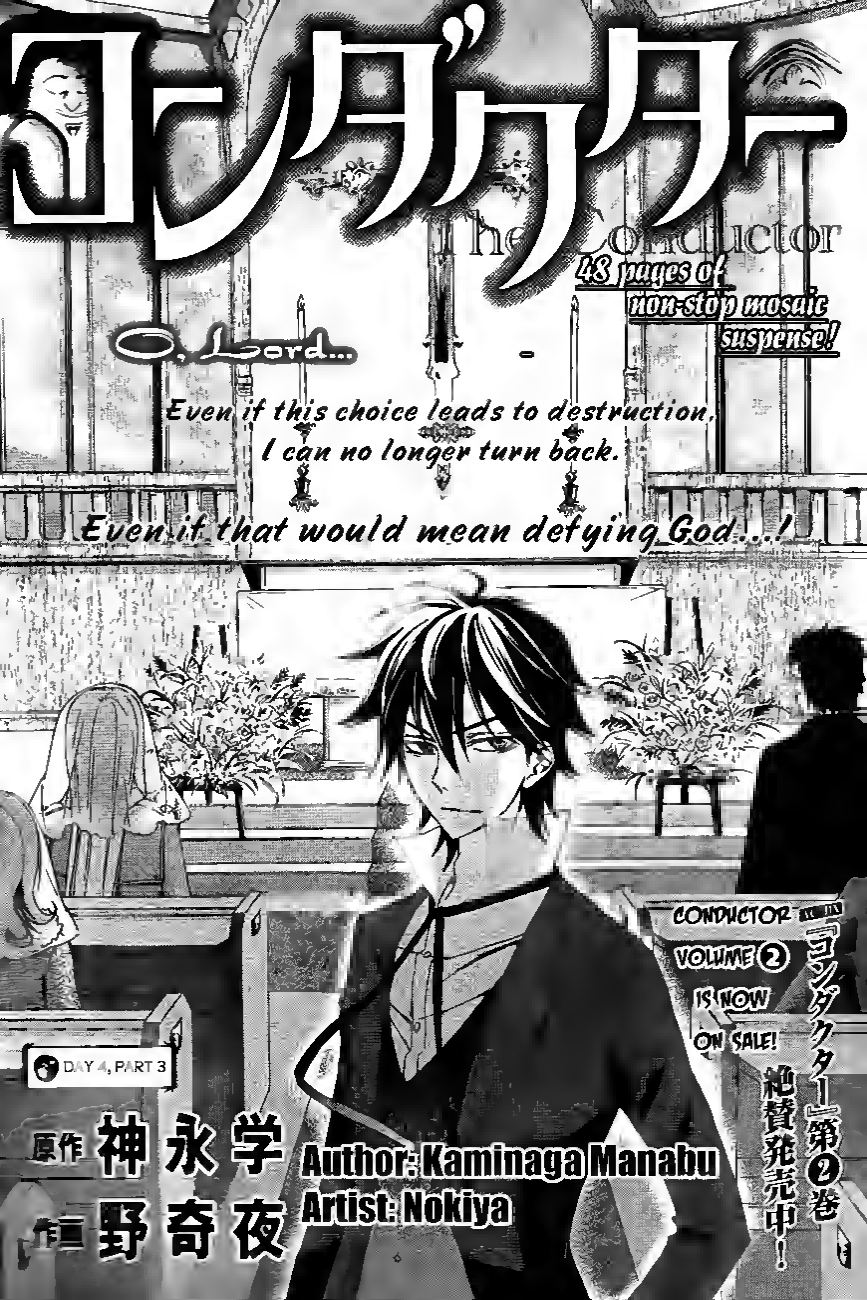
TEXT
Yukihito (translation) | Kaito & No. 13 (typeset)

IMAGE
Ayu (scan) | Cozen & Mine-kun (clean & redraw)

QUALITY
Anachorism, Keeshithn, & Zythera (proofread) |
Kaito & No. 13 (image enhancement) | Kaito & Yukihito (overall raview)


コンダクター
The Conductor
48 pages of non-stop mosaic suspense!
O, Lord...
Even if this choice leads to destruction,
I can no longer turn back.
Even if that would mean defying God...!
CONDUCTOR VOLUME ② IS NOW ON SALE!
『コンダクター』第②巻絶賛発売中!
DAY 4, PART 3
原作 神永学
Author: Kaminaga Manabu
作画 野奇夜
Artist: Nokiya

DAY 4 - YASUFUMI YUUKI
.....
Knock
COME IN.
Knock

HEY!
TAMAKI!
WHY'D YOU COME HERE ALL OF A SUDDEN?
HUH? WE'RE NOT AT PRACTICE, SO LET'S TALK TOGETHER LIKE OLD UNIVERSITY FRIENDS.
...YOU'RE RIGHT.
IS THAT REALLY

AH, IT HAS BEEN A WHILE.
YOU SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN IN TOUCH WITH ME WHEN YOU CAME BACK TO JAPAN.
THE ONLY REASON TAMAKI CAME?
SORRY.
IT WAS ALL SO SUDDEN.
WHEN DID YOU GET BACK?
A MONTH AGO. I MOVED HERE, AND THEN I BEGAN LOOKING FOR WORK.
DIDN'T SOMEONE ASK YOU TO COME BACK?
A FEW
THINGS HAPPENED.

I CAN'T SAY SOMETHING HOPELESS LIKE THAT.
ANYWAY, YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED, AREN'T YOU?
...WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
I GOT THE IMPRESSION THERE WASN'T ANY POTENTIAL IN WHAT I WAS DOING OVER THERE...
...YOU HAD SOME KIND OF TROUBLE?
POTENTIAL, HUH...?
WHEN MY FATHER DIED,
I RETURNED WITH THE IDEA OF SUCCEEDING HIM IN MIND, BUT MY YOUNGER BROTHER DEALT WITH EVERYTHING.

I SUPPOSE SHE'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS, ISN'T SHE?
WELL...
SHE MUST HAVE MISSED YOU TOO.
HMM.
KUCHIKI DID.
.....
NAOMI HASN'T MENTIONED HIM ONCE SINCE THEN.
SHE MIGHT BE BLAMING HERSELF BECAUSE OF THE WAY HER PERSONALITY IS.

WELL, ANYWAY.
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR MARRIAGE
EVEN THOUGH I FEEL SORRY FOR HER,
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.
"IT'S MY FAULT"...
IT'S TOO SOON FOR THAT.
AND...
...DON'T SAY ANY MORE.
I SEE MARRIAGE AS A CONTRACT.

SO THAT'S THE REAL REASON HE CAME ALL THIS WAY TO SEE ME?
HE WANTED TO CONFIRM WHETHER I'VE GOT ANY REGRETS.
DO YOU REALLY FEEL THAT WAY?
I CHOSE MY FUTURE INSTEAD OF HER.
ANYWAY, SHE'S BECOME MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN SHE WAS BEFORE.
IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S WITH YOU.

YES.
IS THAT SO?
CREAK
ARE YOU GOING TO GET MARRIED, YUUKI?
NOT YET.
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN POPULAR IN GERMANY.
CREAK
HMM...BUT YOU DIDN'T BRING HER WITH YOU?
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
...WELL, I DID HAVE A GIRLFRIEND.
WE BROKE UP BEFORE I CAME BACK.
CREAK
CREAK

WELL,
LET'S GO OUT FOR A DRINK SOMETIME.
TAMAKI.
WHAT IS IT?

SORRY ABOUT TODAY.
WHAT FOR?
I WAS TOO HARD ON YOU.
HUH? YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT THAT? IT'S NO GOOD FOR A CONDUCTOR TO HOLD BACK.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
DON'T STOP BEING RELENT-LESS.
Slam
ALRIGHT.

IF I HAD MADE A DIFFERENT CHOICE *BACK THEN*,
AKIHO WOULDN'T BE MARRYING YOU.

IF I HAD MADE A DIFFERENT CHOICE BACK THEN, I WOULDN'T HAVE EXPERIENCED THIS HUMILIATION.
I SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM AFTER ALL...

DAY 4 - TSUYOSHI ISHIKURA
YOU MANAGED TO JOIN US QUITE QUICKLY, INSPECTOR ISHIKURA. THE MUSIC SCHOOL IS JUST ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS WALL, ISN'T IT?
IT SEEMS THAT THIS PLACE WAS ORIGINALLY PART OF THE MUSIC SCHOOL'S GROUNDS. DID YOU KNOW THAT?
Throb
I FELT SOMETHING IN MY CHEST AGAIN ...
I HEARD THAT THE MUSIC SCHOOL GAVE UP PART OF ITS LAND WHEN THE CEMETERY WAS EXPANDED ..
...DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG THE HEAD THAT WAS DISCOVERED HAD BEEN BURIED?

Crush
IT SEEMS THAT THE BODY HAD BEEN BURIED HERE TOO.
NO.
THAT'S THE STRANGE THING.
THAT SEEMS TO BE THE CASE.
SO THE BODY WAS CARRIED TO THE APARTMENT, AND ONLY THE SKULL WAS LEFT BEHIND?
HMM. .IT'S A CEMETERY, SO IT'S NOT AS IF THERE'S A DAILY PATROL...
THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMEONE WHO DUG UP THE BODY.
DID ANYONE NOTICE THAT PERSON?

IT'S NO GOOD ASKING HIM THAT.
Eh.
well...
BUT...
IF THE PERPETRATOR INTENDED TO MAKE US FIND IT AFTERWARDS ANYWAY,
THEN WHY DIDN'T HE BRING THE SKULL ALONG TOO...?
I THINK I'LL GO CRAZY IF I DON'T TELL SOMEONE ABOUT THIS.
WHAT ON EARTH IS HE DOING?
HOW MUCH DOES HE KNOW?

HMM ..PERHAPS THIS COULD BE THE REASON?
I'M SURE THAT THE PERPETRATOR IS TRYING TO PROVOKE THE POLICE.
WHAT FOR?
ISN'T HE TRYING TO SHOW OFF HIS POWER?
THAT'S AN INDICATION OF SOMEONE WHO CRAVES ATTENTION!
CRAVES ATTENTION HUH?
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT THIS WAS A THEATRICAL CRIME TOO.
THEN WHY DOESN'T THE PERPETRATOR IDENTIFY HIMSELF AND CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CRIME?

WELL...!
...THIS SEEMS LIKE IT'LL TAKE A WHILE.
...
I WONDER WHY...
NOT NECESSARILY!
NOW THAT WE HAVE THE SKULL, WE CAN COME UP WITH A PICTURE OF THE VICTIM.
THEY SEEM TO HAVE HAD SOME DENTAL TREATMENT, SO WE CAN IDENTIFY THE VICTIM FROM THEIR DENTAL RECORDS.
THIS BRINGS US ONE STEP CLOSER TO THE PERPETRATOR!

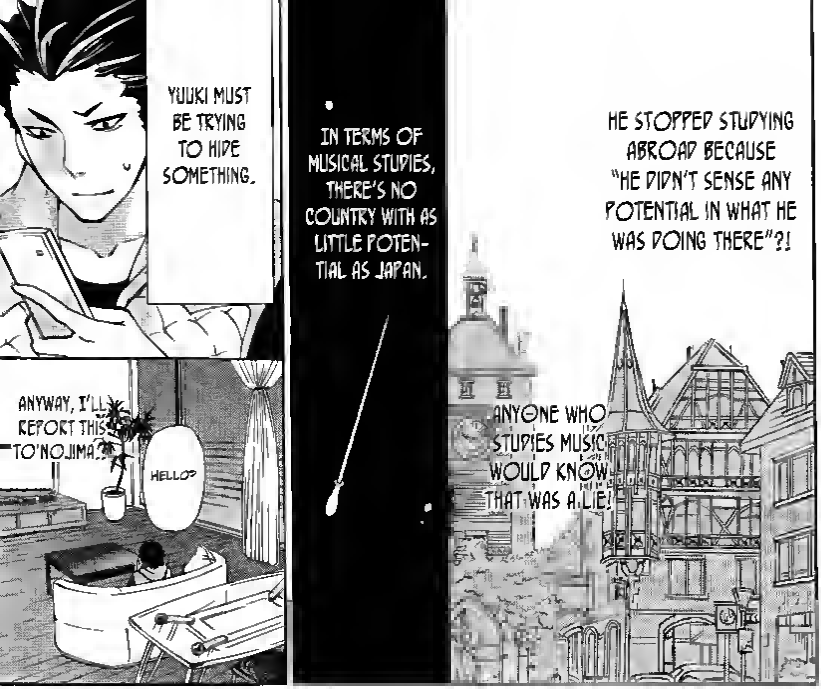
IT SEEMS AS IF WE HAVE THE PERPETRATOR CORNERED.
BUT HE MAY ACTUALLY BE THE ONE WHO HAS US CORNERED.
I'M SURE THAT EVEN THE PERPETRATOR KNOWS THAT.
AH, THAT'S RIGHT.
FORENSICS SENT US SOME EVIDENCE.
THIS WAS MERELY SOMETHING WE WERE MADE TO DISCOVER.

THEY ANALYSED THE PHOTO AND CONSTRUCTED A CLEARER IMAGE.
THAT'S...?!
I THOUGHT I'D KEEP IT TO MYSELF,
BUT NOW THAT WE'VE COME THIS FAR, THERE'S NO REASON TO HIDE IT.
...I FOUND THIS OBJECT.
EH?
IT WAS SOMEWHERE I HAPPENED TO PASS BY BEFORE
GO TO THE MUSIC SCHOOL OVER THERE.

I WASN'T PLANNING ON MEETING THEM AGAIN,
BUT IT SEEMS AS IF THAT WON'T BE POSSIBLE.
THE PEOPLE IN THIS PHOTO SEEM FAMILIAR.
Tap
INSPECTOR ISHIKURA...?
COUGH
COUGH

DAY 4 - KAZUO TAMAKI
"I WAS TOO HARD ON YOU".

BUT IT WAS WORTH PUTTING UP WITH THAT TO TALK TO YUUKI.
YUUKI...
"TOO HARD ON ME", YOU SAY?
HOW DARE YOU EMBARRASS ME IN FRONT OF EVERYONE...!


YUUKI MUST BE TRYING TO HIDE SOMETHING.
IN TERMS OF MUSICAL STUDIES, THERE'S NO COUNTRY WITH AS LITTLE POTENTIAL AS JAPAN.
HE STOPPED STUDYING ABROAD BECAUSE "HE DIDN'T SENSE ANY POTENTIAL IN WHAT HE WAS DOING THERE"?!
ANYWAY, I'LL REPORT THIS TO NOJIMA.
HELLO?
ANYONE WHO STUDIES MUSIC WOULD KNOW THAT WAS A LIE!

I SEE
THAT'S INTERESTING
NOJIMA.
A DISGRACEFUL MAN WHO INVESTIGATES OTHER PEOPLE'S SECRETS AND WRITES ABOUT THEM AS IF IT WERE SOME KIND OF GAME.

I KNOW.
MY ACTIONS AREN'T THAT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM HIS.
BUT
I HAVE TO DO THIS
TAMAKI SAN I KNOW IM BEING PERSISTENT, BUT NO ONE HAS FOUND OUT HAVE THEY?
IT'S FINE THINGS ARE GOING WELL
PLEASE BE CAREFUL
IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY BAD IF YOUR GIRLFRIEND FOUND OUT
FOR YOU AND FOR ME

AH...
I CHECKED MY PHONE LATER ON, BUT THERE WEREN'T ANY CALLS FROM HER.
WHAT I REALLY WANT TO DO IS TO HAVE A LONG TALK WITH HER.
SHE PROBABLY SAID THE THINGS SHE DID BECAUSE SHE WANTED ME TO CALL HER.
AND HOLD HER IN MY ARMS RIGHT NOW.
AKIHO...
BUT I DON'T WANT HER TO SEE MY UGLY APPEARANCE RIGHT NOW.
AND...
AH, I'VE FOUND SOMETHING INTERESTING TOO

SOMETHING INTEREST-ING?
THERE WAS AN INDIVIDUAL NAME AMONG THE LIST OF SPONSORS FOR THE MUSICAL
IT WAS YASUFUMI YUUKI
WHY IS THE CONDUCTOR'S NAME THERE...?
MY THEORY THAT YUUKI-SAN INTENTION-ALLY GATHERED THE MEMBERS OF THIS MUSICAL TURNED OUT TO BE TRUE

...WHY WOULD HE NEED TO DO THAT?
HMM, I WONDER WHY.

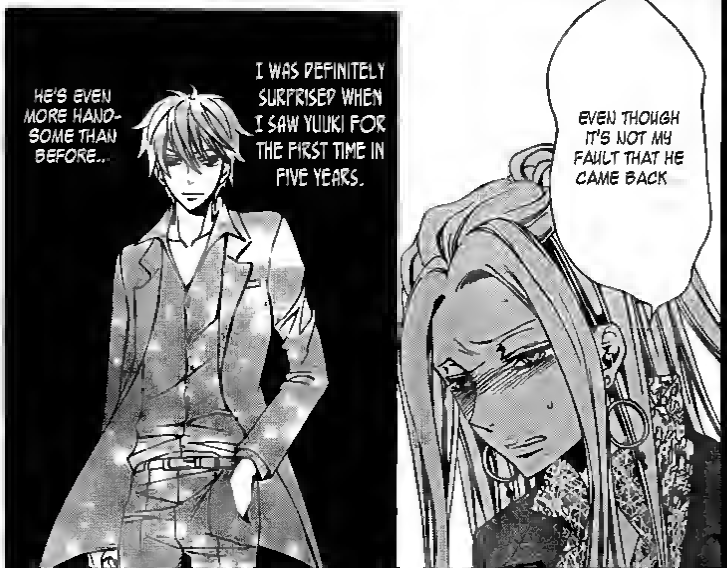
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!
I WON'T LET HIM HAVE HIS WAY ANY LONGER!
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT HE COULD HAVE DONE IT TO GET CLOSE TO MAYA-SAN YOUR GIRLFRIEND.
WHATEVER HIS INTENTION MIGHT BE YOU SHOULD TAKE CARE THAT YOU DON'T LOSE YOUR GIRLFRIEND
HE MIGHT HAVE OTHER INTENTIONS TOO.
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.

...I HOPE THAT'S THE CASE...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
OH, IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY RBOUT.
I'M SUAE I MISTOOK WHAT I SAW

THROB
MISTOOK WHAT HE SAW...?
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB

SCRATCH
THROB
SCRATCH
NO WAY...
THROB
SCRATCH
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE...
SCRATCH
THROB
MY HAND, WHICH WAS FULLY HEALED, IS ACHING...
WHAT ON EARTH
DID NOJIMA SEE?
NO...

BANG
WHY DO I HAVE TO FEEL THIS WAY?!
I'VE GOT TO DO SOME-THING SOON...
DAY 4 - AKIHO MAYA


HE'S EVEN MORE HAND-SOME THAN BEFORE...
I WAS DEFINITELY SURPRISED WHEN I SAW YUUKI FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FIVE YEARS.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT MY FAULT THAT HE CAME BACK

IF I HADN'T KNOWN ABOUT THAT,
I MIGHT NOT HAVE BROKEN UP WITH HIM.
NO...
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
COULD IT BE...!
Click
TAMAKI-KUN?!
Ding Dong
GOOD EUENING.

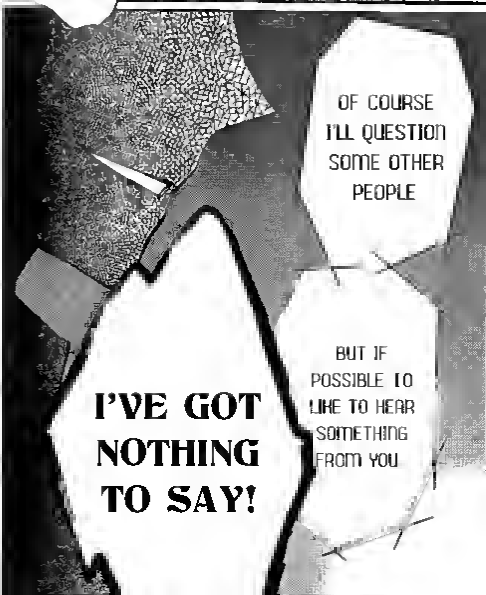
THIS MAN...
IT'S THE DETECTIVE FROM YESTERDAY, THE ONE CALLED ISHIKURA...
I APOLOGISE FOR COMING ROUND THIS LATE AT NIGHT,
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO CONFIRM..
CONFIRM?
I WANT YOU TO LOOK AT THIS PHOTO

WHAT DID YOU SAY...?
WHAT...
YESTERDAY I TOLD YOU THAT A SKELETON WAS FOUND AT AN APARTMENT.
WHY WAS THE SKELETON HOLDING A PHOTO THAT YOU WERE IN?
I...
I DON'T KNOW!
THE SKELETON HAD THIS PHOTO IN ITS HANDS
PLEASE ASK SOMEONE ELSE.
NO. I'M SURE YOU KNOW SOMETHING
I REALLY DON'T KNOW.
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE

WELL, I'LL ACCEPT THAT FOR NOW
I'LL COME AND ASK YOU AGAIN TOMORROW

I KNEW IT
YOU DO KNOW SOMETHING

IT'S...
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT. JUST NOW, I...
I MEANT THAT YOU SHOULD QUESTION SOME OTHER PEOPLE...
NOT JUST ME...


OF COURSE I'LL QUESTION SOME OTHER PEOPLE
BUT IF POSSIBLE I'D LIKE TO HEAR SOMETHING FROM YOU
I'VE GOT NOTHING TO SAY!

Clatter
THUD
Peek

...NO WAY...
HE'S NOT LEAVING...?

PLEASE.
I CAN'T ANSWER THE PHONE RIGHT NOW. PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP.
beep
PICK UP THE PHONE...
HELP ME, TAMAKI-KUN!
TAMAKI-KUN.
Grab
WHY DO I HAVE TO FEEL THIS WAY?
PLEASE...
EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT MY FAULT.
EVEN THOUGH I HAVEN'T DONE ANY-THING.

Ding
Dong
HAMLET
...WHO IS THIS?
SOMEBODY, PLEASE HELP ME...
YUUKI YASUFUMI 090
KOUICHI AKIYAMA 080
YUMI OKAMOTO 080
SAEKO KONDO 090

I'M SURE WE HAD AN AGREEMENT!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I SAID I WOULDN'T SEE YOU AGAIN.

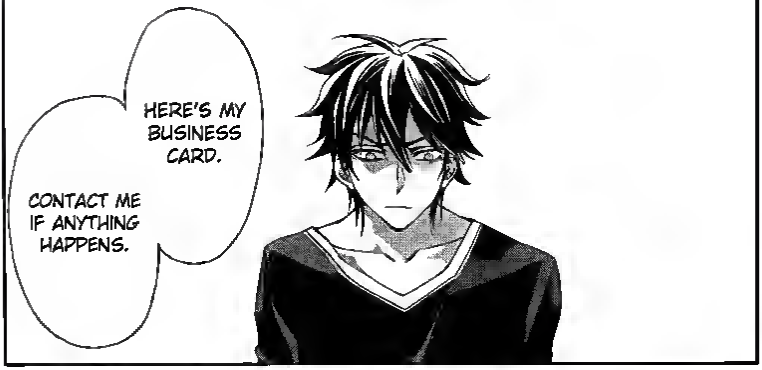
DON'T SAY THAT.
YOU'LL CHANGE YOUR MIND WHEN YOU SEE THIS PHOTO.

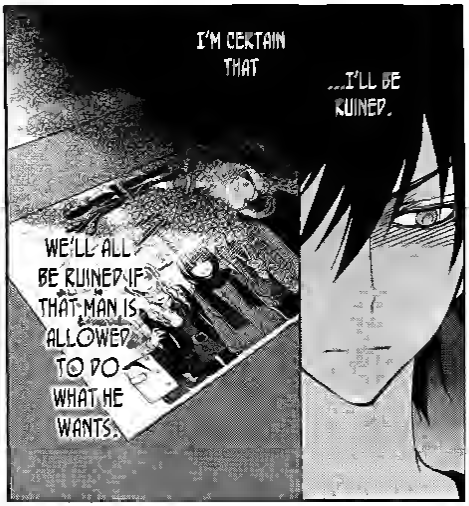
A HEADLESS SKELETON WAS FOUND AT AN APARTMENT IN KUNITACHI THE OTHER DAY, AND THE STORY MADE THE NEWS.
YOU'RE...

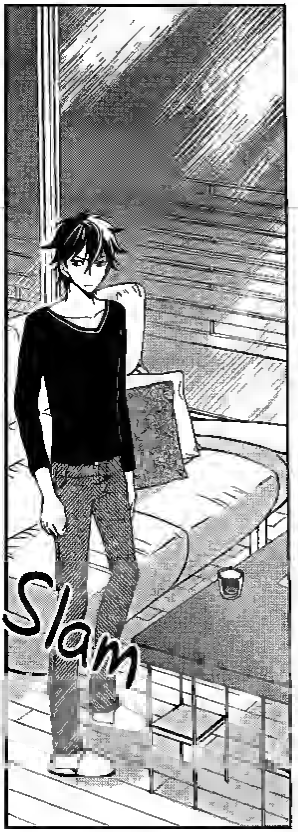
THE SKELETON WAS HOLDING THIS PHOTO.
THE HEAD OF THAT SKELETON WAS DISCOVERED AT TAMAGAWA-JOUSUI CEMETERY TODAY.
YOU UNDER-STAND WHAT I'M SAYING, DON'T YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?
...I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING.
SOMEONE ELSE IS PLANNING SOMETHING.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO?
WHAT WAS THIS WOMAN'S NAME?
...WHY
ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THAT?
I'M TELLING YOU TO BE CAREFUL OF YOUR FRIENDS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
I MEAN THAT YOU'LL BE RUINED.


HERE'S MY BUSINESS CARD.
CONTACT ME IF ANYTHING HAPPENS.


I'M CERTAIN THAT
...I'LL BE RUINED.
WE'LL ALL BE RUINED IF THAT MAN IS ALLOWED TO DO WHAT HE WANTS.


Slam

bzz
bzz

IS IT THAT MAN?!
HELLO?
A NUMBER I DON'T RECOGNISE.
SOMEONE'S CRYING...?
UH
IS THIS... AKIHO?
THAT VOICE... IT CAN'T BE...!
YES.

WHAT'S THE MATTER? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
I...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
...DID TAMAKI DO SOMETHING TO YOU?
NO.
HE DIDN'T ANSWER HIS PHONE...

I'M...
A REPLACEMENT FOR TAMAKI?
...WHAT'S THE MATTER?

A STALKER?
THAT'S RIGHT
I'M SCARED
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
CALM DOWN, AKIHO
I'M... SCARED.
OUT-SIDE...
THERE'S A MAN... HE'S ACT-ING LIKE A STALKER...
HE'S... WATCH-ING ME...
...I'M SORRY. I WAS SCARED,
AND I JUST WANTED SOMEONE TO TALK TO.
...ARE YOU AT HOME RIGHT NOW?
YES.

Al-
RIGHT.
I'll COME
OVER
THERE
NOW.
EH?
BUT...
I'M NOT
SAYING
YOU HAVE
TO LET ME IN.
BUT YOU MUST
BE WORRIED
ABOUT BEING
ALONE.
WE CAN
JUST GO TO A
NEARBY FAMILY
RESTAURANT.

I'LL STAY WITH YOU.
COME HERE
QUICKLY...
The gears start to go out of sync, little by little...
SLAM
TO BE CONTINUED IN THE APRIL ISSUE, ON SALE FEBRUARY 24
To Be Continued...

The Conductor

by Kaminaga Manabu & Noki Ya

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TEXT

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IMAGE

Ayu (scan) | Asablasa (pre-clean) | Cozen (clean) | Cozan , Kaito (redraw)

QUALITY

Keeahtihn, Yayumi (proofread) | Kaito, No. XIII (image enhancement) | Kaito & Yukihito (overall review)

AC-DX "Conductor" Volume 3

AC-DX コンダクター 第3巻

+4月26日発売予定!

GOES ON SALE! APRIL 26!

Day 5, Part ①

コンダクター

The Conductor

ノンストップ・ザイクサスペンス

Author: Kaminaga Manabu

原作 神永学

64P

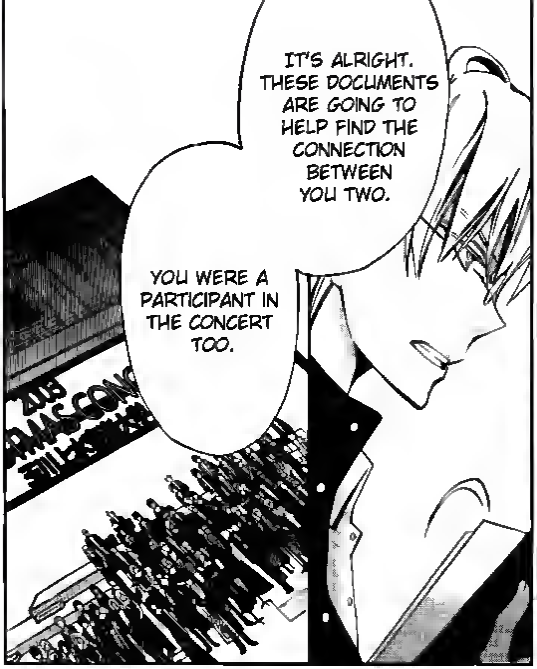
64 PAGE NON-STOP MOSAIC SUSPENSE!

Artist: Nokiya

作画 野奇夜

Day Five – Naomi Kuchiki
YESTERDAY, I CALLED DOCTOR MATSUZAKI AFTER I GOT HOME.
I DID SOME RESEARCH BY MYSELF AFTER YOU WENT HOME
AND I FOUND SOMEONE WHO I THINK IS TAKUMI-SAN.

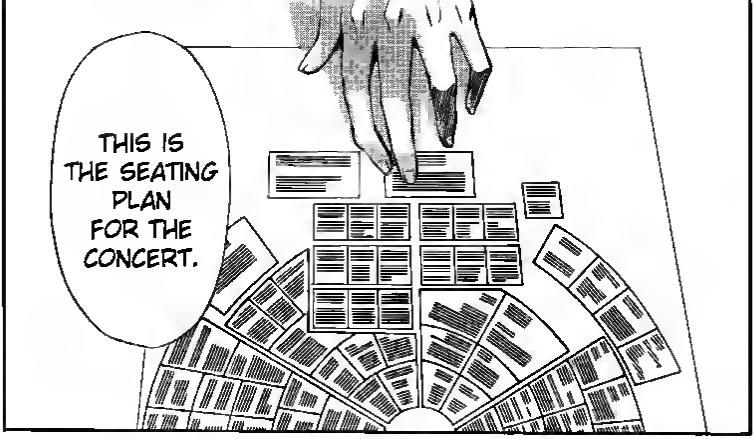
GOOD MORNING.
CLATTER
EVEN THOUGH I TRIED SO HARD LOOKING FOR HIM,
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS MOMENT SCARES ME.
Ah
GOOD MORNING.
PLEASE HAVE A LOOK AT THESE DOCUMENTS RIGHT AWAY.
I'M SURE THAT THERE'S NO MISTAKE,
BUT I DON'T HAVE CONCLUSIVE PROOF, SO I THINK YOU SHOULD LOOK AT IT YOURSELF.


IT'S ALRIGHT. THESE DOCUMENTS ARE GOING TO HELP FIND THE CONNECTION BETWEEN YOU TWO.
YOU WERE A PARTICIPANT IN THE CONCERT TOO.

A PAMPHLET FROM THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT FIVE YEARS AGO?
BUT I'M NOT SURE WHETHER I WOULD KNOW, EVEN IF I SAW HIS FACE...

YES...
THE CONCERT HELP IN MY FOURTH YEAR.
I TOOK THAT PHOTO WITH THE OTHERS AFTER THE CONCERT.
PLEASE LOOK AT THIS.

THIS IS TAKUMI-SAN'S NAME.
Takumi Onda (4th year)
Hitomi Nakamura (4th year)
Kazuya Chiba (4th year)
Kanako Hamada (4th year)
Ryu Suzumura
Eri Sakaguchi
Youko Nakajima
Tomomi Kimura
Masaki
THUMP
HE WAS IN THE RECITAL DEPARTMENT AND MAJORED IN CELLO.
TAKUMI ONDA...!!
THUMP
THUMP
...IS IT REALLY HIM?
THUMP
I'M GOING TO ASK YOU A QUESTION INSTEAD. DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT TAKUMI ONDA-SAN LOOKS LIKE?
THE ORCHESTRA HAD OVER A HUNDRED MEMBERS. I DON'T REMEMBER THEM ALL.
THEN LOOK AT THIS TOO.

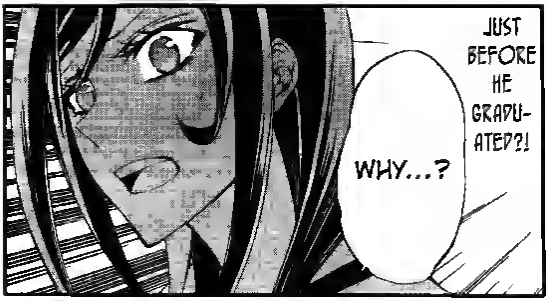

THIS IS THE SEATING PLAN FOR THE CONCERT.

First Flute
Naomi Kuchiki
Cello
Takumi Onda
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

THE FIRST FLUTE SAT NEXT TO HIM.
THAT WAS YOU, NAOMI-SAN.

WE WOULD HAVE SPENT A LONG TIME PRACTICING FOR THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT.
THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD HAVE FORGOTTEN THE PERSON SITTING NEXT TO ME.
IT'S HIM...
UMM...
NOW HE IS...
THE PERSON I'D FOR-GOTTEN...

I DIDN'T LOOK FOR HIS NAME IN THE REGISTER OF GRADUATES,
BUT IN THE ADMISSIONS REGISTER.


JUST BEFORE HE GRADU-ATED?!
WHY...?

ADMIS-SIONS...?
YES. HE QUIT UNIVERSITY JUST BEFORE HE GRADUATED.

reach

HE
PASSED AWAY.
THUMP
A MUSIC COLLEGE STUDENT WAS STRUCK BY A PASSING
SUICIDE?!
THUMP
THUMP
"Takumi Onda, a student at a music college, was killed when he climbed over a fence at Tamagawa-Jousui station on the Seibu-Haijima line, and got hit by a passing train."
"A suicide note was not discovered, but according to a friend, he had been troubled by a romantic relationship."
THUMP

THUMP
"THE POLICE ARE TREATING THE INCIDENT AS AN UNPLANNED SUICIDE
THAT RESULTED FROM THE SHOCK OF BEING REJECTED ROMANTICALLY..."
THE SHOCK OF
BEING REJECTED ROMANTICALLY...

I WONDER WHETHER
I WAS HIS GIRLFRIEND...
YOU MUSTN'T ASSUME THAT.
BUT IF I WAS, THEN THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THE MYSTERIOUS THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED SO FAR.

AKIHO AVOIDED TALKING ABOUT IT BECAUSE SHE KNEW.

I SEALED AWAY THE MEMORIES INVOLVING HIM BECAUSE I BLAMED MYSELF FOR HIS DEATH.

THE REASON THAT MAN KEEPS APPEARING IN MY DREAMS
IS BECAUSE
I
KILLED
TAKUMI
ONDA...

The victim's name was Reiji Amamiya.

Just one day after the skull was discovered in the cemetery, its identity was confirmed.

THAT REALLY WAS A SURPRISE.

AFTER YOU LEFT THE SCENE, WE FOUND A STUDENT I.D. AROUND WHERE THE HEAD WAS BURIED...

BUT IT WAS A GOOD THING WE DID.

THANKS TO THAT, WE WERE ABLE TO CONFIRM HIS IDENTITY JUST BY CHECKING HIS DENTAL RECORDS.

.....

Day 5 – Tsuyoshi Ishikura

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO HANDLED THE CASE OF REIJI AMAMIYA'S DISAPPEARANCE FIVE YEARS AGO, WEREN'T YOU, INSPECTOR ISHIKURA?
EVEN SO, INFORMING HIS FAMILY OF HIS DEATH IS A DIFFICULT TASK.
IT'S NOTHING.
PLEASE!
FIND MY SON!
HE ISN'T THE TYPE TO LEAVE HOME WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING.
I'M SURE HE MUST HAVE GOT CAUGHT UP IN SOMETHING.
FIND HIM!
I HEARD THAT HIS MOTHER WAS REALLY DESPERATE BACK THEN.
SHE'D COME TO THE STATION ALMOST DAILY AND HAND OUT FLIERS IN TOWN.

IN THE END,
"PLEASE FIND HIM,"
"EVEN IF IT'S JUST THIS BODY."
SHE WAS LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON.
DESPITE HIM CHANGING HIS FIELD OF STUDY FROM PIANO TO CONDUCTING
HIS MOTHER TOOK PRIDE IN HIM AS A CHILD WITH A PROMISING FUTURE
WHO KNOWS WHAT SHE MIGHT SAY WHEN WE TELL HER THAT WE'VE FOUND HIS BODY...
SLAM

Hey, Inspector Ishikura!
Wait a minute!
...IS THIS THE PLACE?
THIS IS... DING DONG
PRETTY TERRIBLE...

clatter
AH...
YOU'RE YOUKO AMAMIYA, AREN'T YOU?
WE'VE COME TO TALK ABOUT YOUR SON TODAY.

A SKELETON WAS FOUND IN AN APARTMENT THE OTHER DAY.
AND TESTS HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THERE'S A HIGH POSSIBILITY THAT IT'S YOUR SON'S BODY.
I'VE COME TO ASK ABOUT THE SITUATION SURROUNDING HIS DISAPPEARANCE ONCE MORE...
...I'VE TOLD YOU ABOUT IT.
WE KNOW THAT...
BUT THE SITUATION IS DIFFERENT NOW.
I'VE TOLD YOU AGAIN AND AGAIN.
WEREN'T YOU LISTEN-ING?

WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO IF SHE GETS WORKED UP?
YOU IDIOT!
WELL, HE WAS MISSING AT THAT TIME,
BUT NOW THIS IS A MURDER INVESTIGATION...

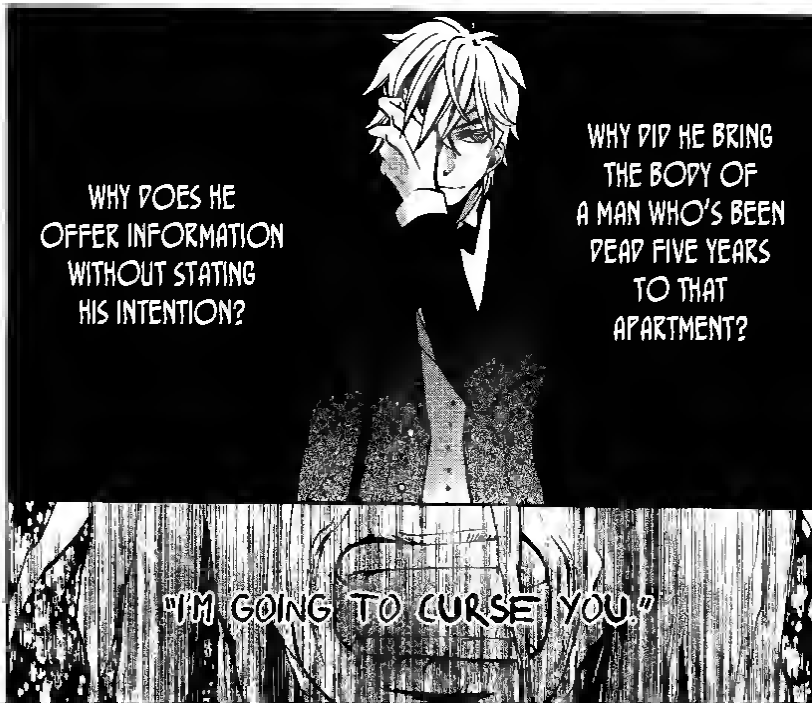
I TOLD YOU...
TO LOOK FOR MY SON PROPERLY...
YOU POLICE WERE THE ONES WHO IGNORED THAT!
"PLEASE."
"PLEASE."

B-BUT... AT THAT TIME...
AH...
NO...
WHAT ABOUT THAT TIME?
SAY IT.
BUT YOU DIDN'T QUEST-ION ME PROPER-LY.
I KEPT ON SAYING THAT MY SON WOULDN'T RUN AWAY FROM HOME.
YOU WERE THE ONES WHO DECIDED IT DIDN'T SEEM TO BE AN INCIDENT!

YOU'RE ONLY JUST TELLING ME THIS!
WHO LEFT HIM UNTIL HE WAS NOTHING MORE THAN BONES?!
GRAB
...I'M GOING TO CURSE YOU...

I'M GOING TO CURSE YOU!
I'M GOING TO CURSE YOU!
I'M GOING TO CURSE YOU!
I'M GOING TO CURSE YOU!
I'M GOING TO CURSE YOU!
LET'S GO.
WE...
WE'LL BE GOING
THROW

IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAT WE CONSIDER THE PERPE-TRATOR.
JEEZ.
SHE'S COMPLETELY INSANE.


WHY DOES HE OFFER INFORMATION WITHOUT STATING HIS INTENTION?
WHY DID HE BRING THE BODY OF A MAN WHO'S BEEN DEAD FIVE YEARS TO THAT APARTMENT?
"I'M GOING TO CURSE YOU."

I'VE GOT TO CATCH THE PERPETRATOR OF THIS CASE BEFORE ANYONE ELSE DOES.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, INSPECTOR ISHIKURA...?
TO DO SOME QUEST-IONING.
I'LL COME TOO!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.
ALL YOU'LL DO IS SLOW ME DOWN.

I ALREADY HAVE AN IDEA OF WHAT'S GOING ON.
Day 5 – Akiho Maya

AH... IT'S YUUKI-KUN'S ROOM.
THIS IS...?
THE SHEETS ARE STILL WARM.
YUUKI-KUN WAS GENTLE, JUST AS HE WAS IN THE PAST.

A SWEET ACT
THAT EXCITED
THE BOTH OF US
AND SATISFIED US
COMPLETELY.
JOLT
HE'S
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
FROM
TAMAKI-KUN.

UH...
WHAT...
HAVE I DONE...?
DASH
UH...
UGH...
UHH...

YOU BETRAYED ME.

YOU BELONG WITH YUUKI AFTER ALL.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU'RE THE ONE IN THE WRONG!
I WAS JUST SCARED... I COULDN'T STAY BY MYSELF...
YOU WERE THE ONE AVOIDING ME
BECAUSE OF YOUR RIDICULOUS JEALOUSY.
I WAS... REALLY SCARED...
I JUST WANTED SOME-BODY... ANY-BODY... TO STAY BY MY SIDE!

IT REALLY DIDN'T MATTER WHO?

AHHHHH!
AH...
AHH...
AHHH...
AREN'T I ACTUALLY STILL IN LOVE WITH YUUKI-KUN?

TAKUMI ONDA.
AND I WAS THE REASON HE COMMITTED SUICIDE...
THE PERSON WHO I FORGOT.
WE DON'T KNOW THAT YET.
GOOD MORNING.
BUT...

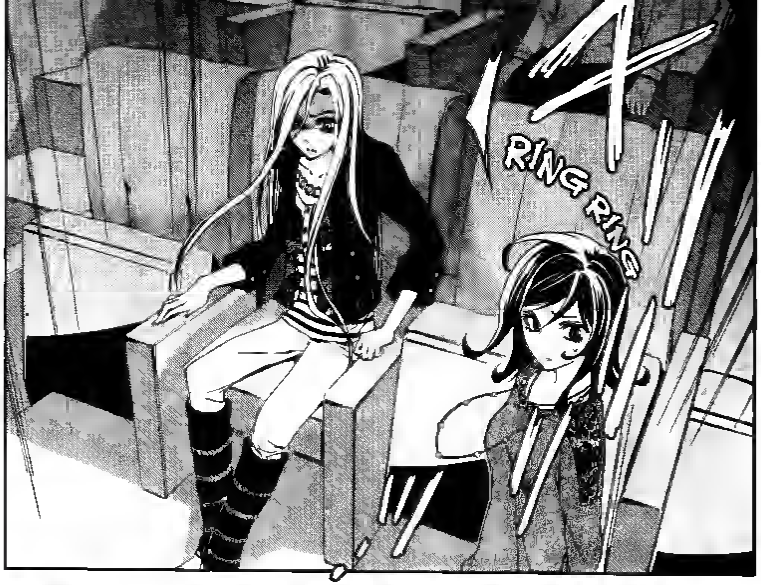
ONE OF THE VIOLINISTS ISN'T HERE.
RIGHT... I DIDN'T NOTICE.
...I SUPPOSE TAMAKI-KUN DOESN'T KNOW EITHER.
NEVER MIND.
CREAK
I'M SORRY.
AKIHO!

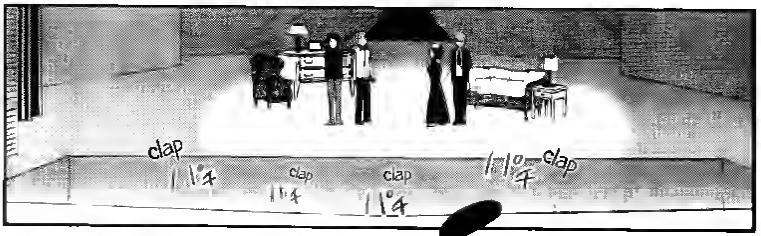
YUUKI-KUN DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.
FIRST OF ALL, TO GET THE HANG OF THINGS, WE'RE GOING TO WATCH THE ACTORS WITHOUT A MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT.
WE'LL PERFORM WITH THEM AFTER THAT.
TODAY, WE WILL BE
PRACTICING WITH THE ACTORS.
HUH?
EVERYONE PUT YOUR INSTRUMENTS DOWN AND TAKE A SEAT IN FRONT OF THE STAGE.

AH.
WAIT, AKIHO...
IT'S NO GOOD. YOU'VE GOT TO TALK TO AKIHO...
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW.
WHAT HAP-PENED?
BUT SHE DIDN'T PICK UP HER PHONE YESTERDAY, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I CALLED!
I TRIED TO TALK TO HER,

I'LL TALK TO AKIHO.
HURRY UP AND TAKE YOUR SEATS, YOU TWO!
I'VE GOT TO TALK TO AKIHO.
I'M CONCERNED ABOUT HER AND TAMAKI,
tap
tap
BUT I WANT TO ASK HER ABOUT TAKUMI ONDA AGAIN.
EVEN IF I REALLY DID CAUSE HIM TO COMMIT SUICIDE...

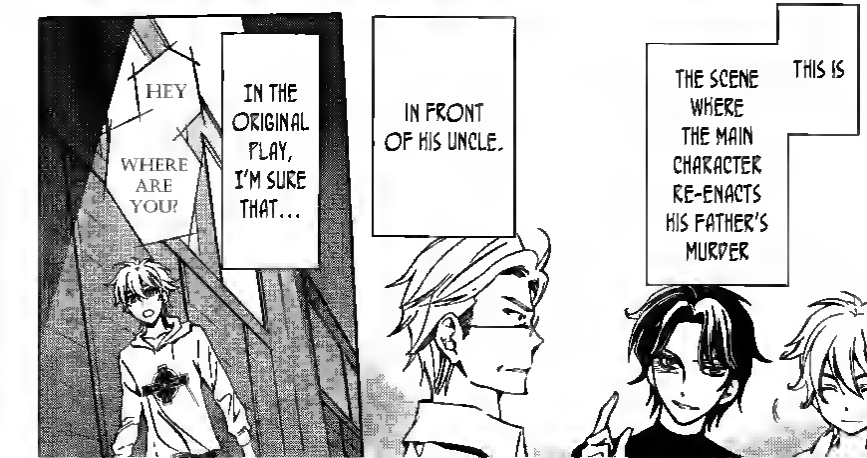
AKIHO!
THINGS WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE ON THE WAY THEY ARE NOW.
ARE YOU OKAY?
DON'T WORRY. I'M JUST FEELING A LITTLE SICK.
PLEASE JUST LEAVE ME ALONE RIGHT NOW!
UMM... DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND TAMAKI-KUN...?


RING RING


clap
clap
clap
clap

THE UNCLE WHO MURDERED HIS FATHER, THEN CLAIMED HIS MOTHER AND THE THRONE
THE PRINCE OF DENMARK, HAMLET, TAKES REVENGE ON
"HAMLET", A STORY IN WHICH

BRINGS THE SETTING TO PRESENT DAY JAPAN.
THE MUSICAL WE'RE CURRENTLY INVOLVED WITH
...IT'S BETTER THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.
IT COULD BE QUITE INTERESTING.


HEY
WHERE ARE YOU?
IN THE ORIGINAL PLAY, I'M SURE THAT...
IN FRONT OF HIS UNCLE.
THIS IS THE SCENE WHERE THE MAIN CHARACTER RE-ENACTS HIS FATHER'S MURDER

HE WAS POISONED...
TCH!
YOU'RE NOT DEAD YET?

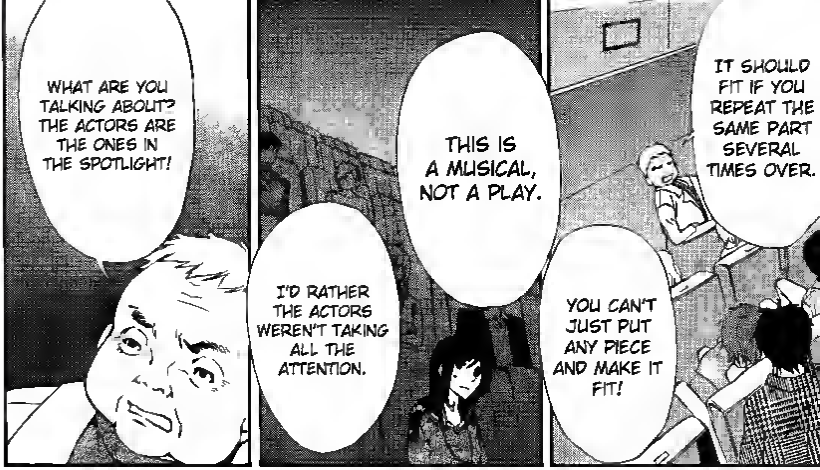
I WON'T...
FORGIVE YOU...
AAAA

THIS IS...
THUD
THUD
THIS SCENE IS...
THUD
THUD
STOP
HURRY UP AND KILL HIM!
I KNOW! HOLD HIM DOWN!

I'VE SEEN

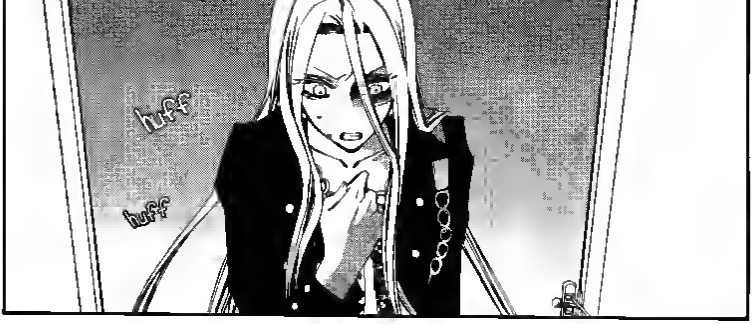
THIS SCENE BEFORE!

YUUKI-KUN!
IT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE ORIGINAL SCENARIO!!
Shock
AKIHO...?
WHY'D YOU SHOUT OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE REHEARSAL?
DON'T PLAY DUMB. THE SCENARIO IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. IT WON'T FIT THE MUSIC NOW!

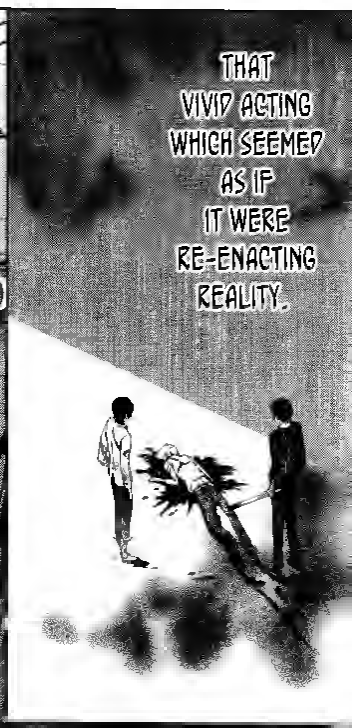

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THE ACTORS ARE THE ONES IN THE SPOTLIGHT!
I'D RATHER THE ACTORS WEREN'T TAKING ALL THE ATTENTION.
THIS IS A MUSICAL, NOT A PLAY.
YOU CAN'T JUST PUT ANY PIECE AND MAKE IT FIT!
IT SHOULD FIT IF YOU REPEAT THE SAME PART SEVERAL TIMES OVER.

THE ORCHESTRA IS JUST BACKGROUND MUSIC.
CHATTER
CHATTER

THEN JUST USE A TAPE-PLAYER FOR THE MUSIC!
HEY!
COME BACK HERE!


huff
huff

THAT'S RIGHT.
I KNOW.

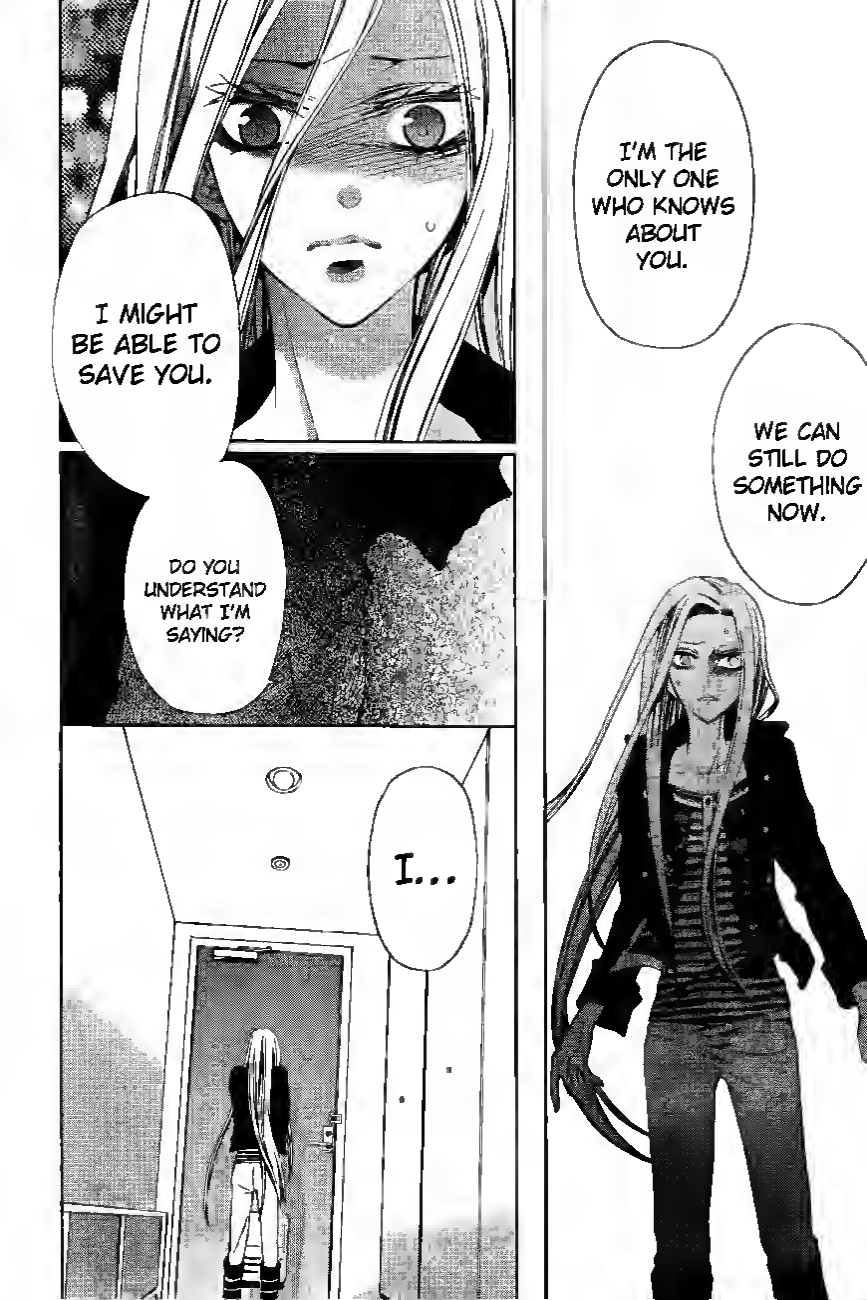

THAT VIVID ACTING WHICH SEEMED AS IF IT WERE RE-ENACTING REALITY.

I SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE TO THE PIT THAT DAY.

KNOCK
KNOCK
AKIHO MAYA-SAN.
IT'S ME, ISHIKURA.
DING DONG
I'M GLAD THE RING WASN'T FOUND.
THAT DETECT-IVE!
I SAW YOU ENTER YOUR APARTMENT JUST NOW.
YOU SEEMED TO BE IN QUITE A PANIC. IS SOMETHING WRONG?
WHAT...
WHAT IS IT NOW...?
IT'S NOTHING.
I SEE... WE'VE FOUND THE IDENTITY OF THE VICTIM IN THE CASE WE'RE HANDLING.
I CAME TO TELL YOU THAT.

THE VICTIM'S NAME IS REIJI AMAMIYA.
I TOLD YOU IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!
IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO SAY THAT?
I DON'T KNOW HIM!
I HAD SEVERAL HUNDRED CLASS-MATES.
HE WAS A STUDENT AT THE SAME MUSIC COLLEGE AS YOU.
HE WAS IN THE SAME CLASS TOO. THERE'S NO WAY YOU WOULDN'T KNOW HIM.
LYING WILL ONLY PUT YOU AT A DISADVANTAGE WHEN YOU GET INTERROGATED.

I'M GOING TO CALL IT A DAY FOR NOW.
.....
CLATTER
HERE'S MY BUSINESS CARD.
PLEASE CALL ME IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND AND WANT TO TALK.
I'VE GOT NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT...
JUST TALK TO ME IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND.
IF YOU CALL THIS NUMBER AND ASK FOR ME, I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING.
PROMISE ME THAT.


I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT YOU.
WE CAN STILL DO SOMETHING NOW.
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO SAVE YOU.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING?
I...

IF NOT, SOMEONE WILL DO SOMETHING TO KEEP YOU QUIET.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THIS IS A WARNING.
YOU MIGHT BE KILLED
IN ORDER TO KEEP SOMETHING A SECRET.

YOU SHOULD START TALKING SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME?
WE'LL BE ABLE TO PROTECT YOU IF YOU TALK.
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOUR CALL.
I...

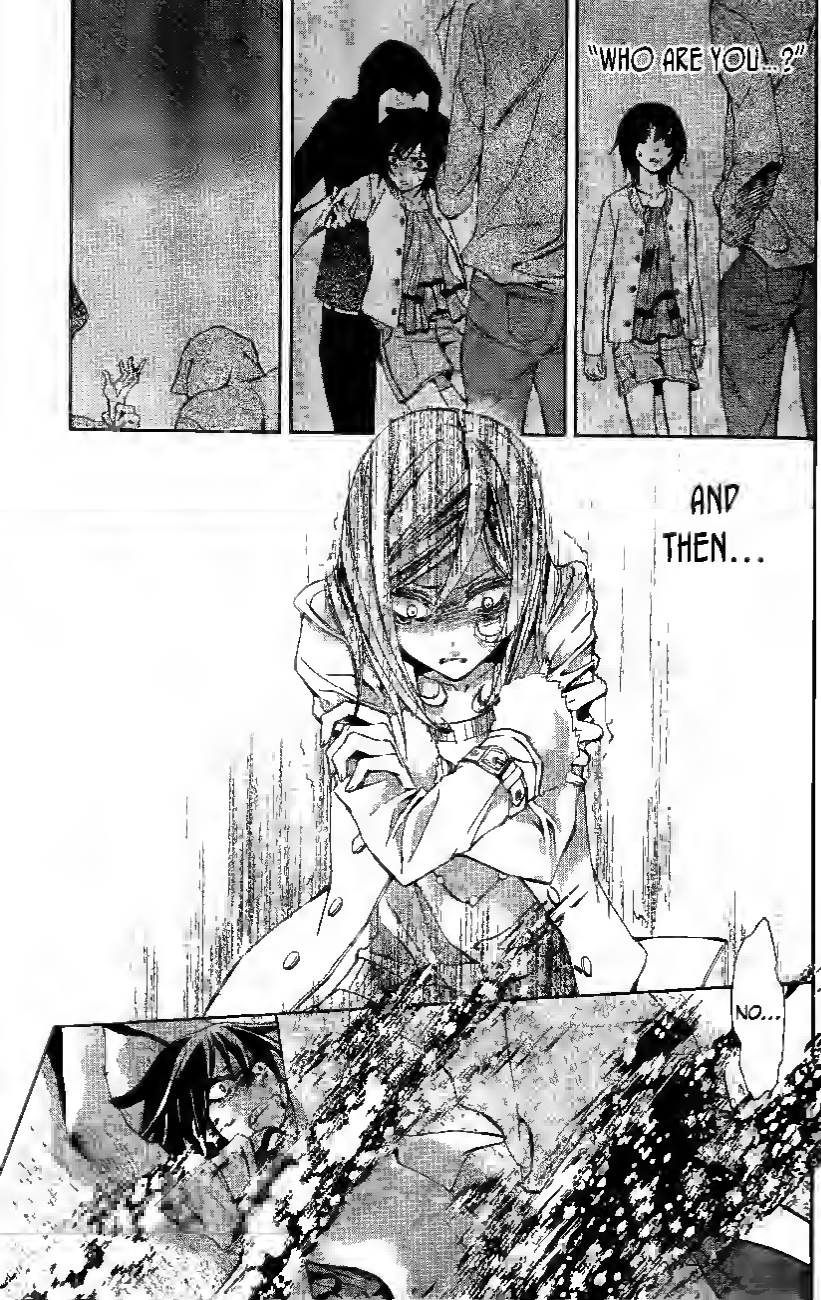
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING!
THE ORCHESTRAL HALL AT THE COLLEGE...
I CAME HERE BECAUSE THAT INCIDENT MEANT THE REHEARSAL GOT CANCELLED.
THE ACTING I SAW TODAY...
AND "TAKUMI ONDA".
I THINK I MIGHT REMEMBER SOMETHING WHILE I'M HERE...

IN MY DREAMS, I'M ALWAYS LOCKED UP SOMEWHERE DARK.
AT THE PLACE I SEE IN MY DREAMS EVERY NIGHT...
IF THAT WASN'T A DREAM, BUT A PIECE OF MY FORGOTTEN MEMORIES, THAT PLACE MIGHT BE HERE...
I'D ESCAPE FROM THERE AND COME INTO THIS HALL.
THE PIT!

THUMP

A MUSTY SMELL.
A DIMLY-LIT PLACE.

THAT'S RIGHT.
THUD
THUD
THUD
I...
THAT DAY, I WENT TOWARDS THE PIT, LOOKING FOR SOMEONE.
TOWARDS THE PIT...

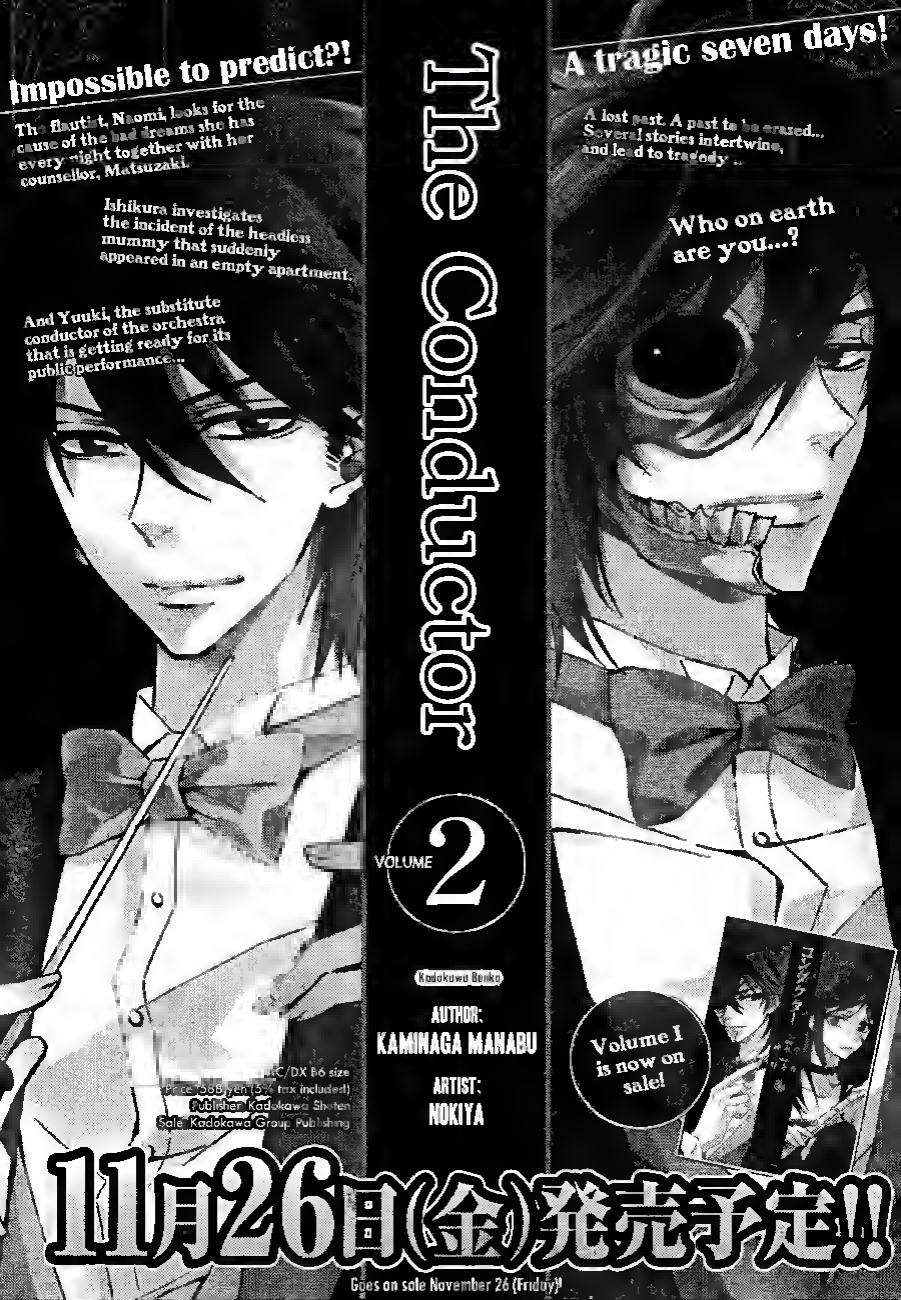

"WHO ARE YOU...?"
AND THEN...
NO...

NO!
NO!
STOP...
STOP!
STOP!
drag
drag
drag

I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS AND WAS TAKEN SOMEWHERE ELSE.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I WAS TAKEN HERE.

AND ON THIS MONITOR,
THE CONTROL ROOM...
I SAW
SOMETHING I SHOULDN'T HAVE SEEN.

THEN I TRIED TO FORGET THAT THING...
THE CRUEL MEMORY THAT IS COMING BACK... WHERE WILL IT LEAD NAOMI...?!
TO BE CONTINUED IN THE MAY ISSUE, ON SALE MARCH 24
To Be Continued...


Impossible to predict?!
The flautist, Naomi, looks for the cause of the bad dreams she has every night together with her counsellor, Matsuzaki.
Ishikura investigates the incident of the headless mummy that suddenly appeared in an empty apartment.
And Yuuki, the substitute conductor of the orchestra that is getting ready for its public performance...
The Conductor
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Kadokawa Bunko
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ARTIST: NOKIYA
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A lost past. A past to be erased... Several stories intertwine, and lead to tragedy...
Who on earth are you...?
Volume 1 is now on sale!
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TEXT

Yukihito (translation) | Sen (typeset)

IMAGE

Ayu (scan) |
RinKashiKiku (clean & redraw) | caelum-infinitum (redraw)

QUALITY

Keeahtihn (proofread) |
Kaito (image enhancement) | Kaito & Yukihito (overall review)